

*Do You Speak American?* ■ *Ivan's Silver Lining* ■ *Fish Sniffers*

# THE AMERICAN Legion

*The magazine for a strong America*

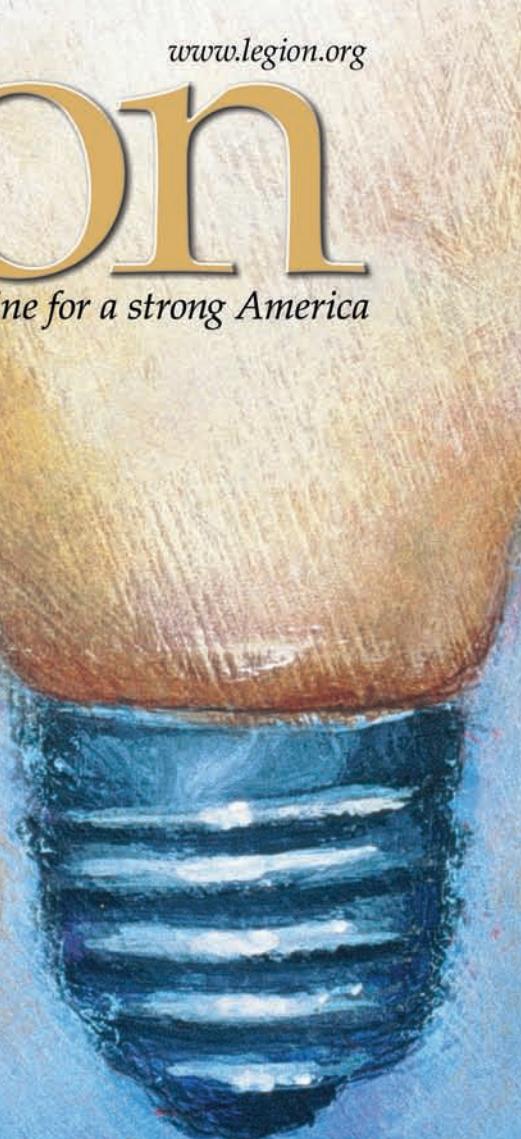
\$2.50 JANUARY 2005

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## The Idea Industry

*How think tanks shape America*

*"For God and Country" since 1919*







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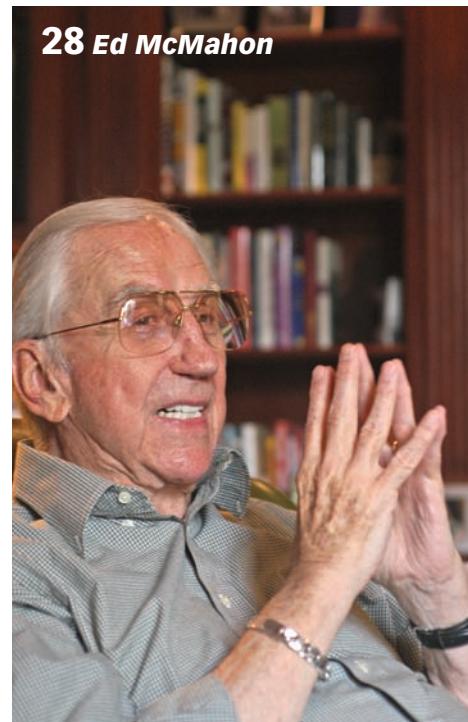
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The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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700 N. Pennsylvania St.

P.O. Box 1055

Indianapolis, IN 46206

(317) 630-1200

<http://www.legion.org>

National Commander **Thomas P. Cadmus**

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### EDITORIAL

Editor **John Raughter**

Managing Editor **Jeff Stoffer**

Contributing Editor **Steve Brooks**

Assistant Editor **James V. Carroll**

Assistant Editor **Matt Grills**

Assistant Editor **Elissa Kaupisch**

Editorial Administrator **Patricia Marschand**

General Administrator **Brandy Ballenger**

General Administrator **Robin Bowman**

### GRAPHICS/PRODUCTION

Graphics/Production Director **Jon Reynolds**

Art Director **Holly K. Soria**

Designer **Douglas Rollison**

Designer **King Doxsee**

### ADVERTISING

Advertising Director **Diane Andretti**

Advertising Assistant **Sara Palmer**

The American Legion Magazine

P.O. Box 7068

Indianapolis, IN 46207

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# The VIETNAM WAR TRIBUTE

A Family Heirloom...an Important Firing Collector First!



**"I would go again. I definitely would go again."**

— an American Vietnam Veteran

From the Delta to the DMZ, young Americans answered the call to duty and proudly served—many with "Old Slabsides," better known as the ".45." In military nomenclature, Uncle Sam called it the "M1911A1 Service Pistol." It was the most powerful military sidearm ever issued in the world. And with it in Vietnam, we drove more nails in the coffin of Communism, which would lead to its eventual fall.

But Vietnam would be the .45's last war. Soon afterwards, so we could comply with NATO ammo logistics, it was retired and replaced by the less-powerful 9mm. So now, the .45, the ".45 era" and our Veterans who fought with it are passing into military history.

How much longer will the .45 be made? No one knows. But while it still is, The American Historical Foundation is proud to salute those who served in the Armed Forces between 1959 and 1975, and the patriotic Americans who supported them, by *appropriately*, issuing this firing museum-quality Limited Edition .45.

## 24-Karat Gold Plating

When you pick up this three-pound slab of steel and gold, you will know you are holding a special, firing Limited Edition, *custom* gunsmithed to *museum* quality.

Like the polished black granite of the Vietnam Memorial, you can see your reflection in its mirror-polished steel, blued to gloss black and richly plated with genuine 24-Karat Gold.

## Historical Symbolism

Deep bas relief etchings, selectively plated with 24-Karat Gold, form the central panoply, with borders of strapped bamboo and dragons, the Asian symbol of power and protection. Historical inscriptions include the dates of the war and General Westmoreland's praise of all who served, with the Vietnam Service Medal surmounted on napalm flames. In keeping with the high-quality custom gunsmithing, all the 24-Karat Gold plating—including across the trigger, hammer, slide stop, magazine catch, magazine catch lock, safety lock and grip screws—is to Jewelers Grade-Heavy thickness, for lasting beauty and value.

The grips are specially hand-finished to look like bamboo, but are actually custom-crafted American Oak. Inset in each grip is a full-color, cloisonné medallion, incorporating the flag of the Republic

of Vietnam (South).

## Fires .45 ACP

Each is custom-built to military specifications by Auto-Ordnance/Thompson, founded by General John T. Thompson, who helped develop the .45 ACP round and the Thompson Sub-Machine Gun. Made to uncompromising standards, the NRA test firing showed accuracy ... "Significantly better than the average as-issued M1911." All parts are interchangeable with military-issued pistols. And fires .45 ACP ammo, so it could be used to defend your home, family or nation.

The Vietnam War Commemorative .45 is strictly limited to *only* 2,500 pistols, worldwide. Each pistol is engraved with its special Registry Number between 0001 and 2500, with the prefix VN for Vietnam. A Certificate of Authenticity attesting to the special Registry Number, edition limit and the purity of the 24-Karat Gold plating accompanies your M1911A1 .45.

## Satisfaction Guaranteed

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on The History Channel.

If you don't have a Federal Firearms License, we will help coordinate delivery with you through your local firearms dealer, after your reservation is received here. Satisfaction is *guaranteed* or return in 30 days for a full refund.

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vet voice|

## Impartial on Iraq

I have been deeply dissatisfied with the mainstream media's treatment of the war in Iraq. After reading your interview with Karl Zinsmeister ("Back From Baghdad," November), I am convinced his coverage is the most impartial and accurate. He affirms that Saddam Hussein was a threat to security and had to be removed from power, and I agree with him that the core cause of 9/11 was the existence of repressive governments in the Middle East. Thank you for this wonderful interview.

— Clyde E. Wooten, Stone Mountain, Ga.

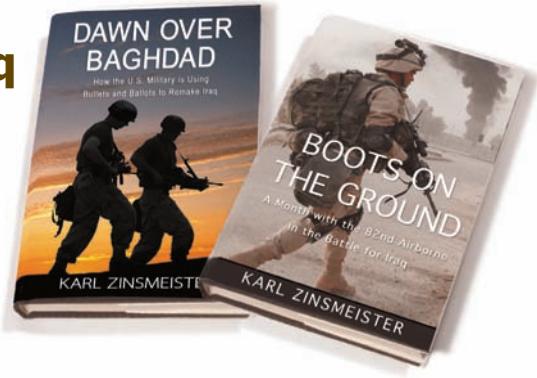
### 'Cavalier' journalism

Karl Zinsmeister gets one thing right about the Iraq war: our fighting men and women are proud to serve and are doing the best they can under difficult circumstances. How, may I ask, does he propose we deal with these "incredibly incompetent and cruel governments that prevail throughout the Middle East and produce only one thing in bumper-crop quantities: homicidally frustrated young men"? I shudder at the thought of such cavalier journalism promoting the forceful overthrow of potentially all Middle East governments. His simplistic argument of "fixing the democracy deficit to win the war on terror" leaves me dumbfounded. Zinsmeister's suggestion that the region's chief export is terrorism is a sad statement made by a fearful individual to help promote more aggressive U.S. action. You continue to fan the flames of war without any real dialogue to seek lasting peace and stability throughout the Middle East and, ultimately, the world. Maybe a step back to get the big picture would help.

— Eugene Chabot, Mundelein, Ill.

### Heroes by chance

I enjoyed Ben Stein's article very much ("How Can Someone Who Lives in Insane Luxury Be a



Star in Today's World?", November). I totally agree with his idea of what makes true heroes. They are the ones in the background not looking for idol worship but just doing their everyday jobs. They become heroes only by chance, being in the right spot at the appointed time.

— Loyd Orr, Bellevue, Neb.

### What truly matters

Ben Stein's simple exclamation of what is not and what is a star had me reading his article a number of times over. In the past, I haven't paid too much attention to him, but now I look forward to his philosophical wisdom. What really brought me to prayer was his comment, "I came to realize that life lived to help others is the only one that matters .... This is my highest and best use as a human."

— Richard P. Raaf, Rockaway Beach, N.Y.

### 'A' is for heroes

The article by Ben Stein is as fine a piece of journalism as has ever been absorbed by this World War II veteran. Alone as I read it, I experienced an irrepressible desire to stand and applaud when it concluded. No more inspiring words could be written than the call to recognize and honor those whose dedication represents the truly perfect definition of hero-



## Make the move to LEVITRA

More and more men are making the move to LEVITRA.

Maybe it's time you found out what all the excitement is about.

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Ask your doctor if a FREE TRIAL is right for you



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## IMPORTANT SAFETY AND DOSING INFORMATION

LEVITRA is a prescription medicine that is used to treat erectile dysfunction (ED). Men taking nitrate drugs, often used to control chest pain (also known as angina), should not take LEVITRA. Men who use alpha blockers, sometimes prescribed for high blood pressure or prostate problems, also should not take LEVITRA. Such combinations could cause blood pressure to drop to an unsafe level. You should not take LEVITRA if your doctor determines that sexual activity poses a health risk for you. Men who experience an erection for more than four hours should seek immediate medical attention. LEVITRA does not protect against sexually transmitted diseases. The starting dose of LEVITRA is 10 mg taken no more than once per day. Your doctor will decide the dose that is right for you. In patients taking certain medications such as ritonavir, indinavir, ketoconazole, itraconazole, and erythromycin, lower doses of LEVITRA are recommended, and time between doses of LEVITRA may need to be extended. In clinical trials, the most commonly reported side effects were headache, flushing, and stuffy or runny nose. LEVITRA is available in 2.5-mg, 5-mg, 10-mg, and 20-mg tablets.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION.

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## Quality counts Count on LEVITRA

LEVITRA is a clinically proven treatment for erectile dysfunction (ED) that consistently improves erection quality.

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*No other oral ED treatment is proven to work faster*
- Works time and again

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8/03

Read the Patient Information about LEVITRA before you start taking it and again each time you get a refill. There may be new information. You may also find it helpful to share this information with your partner. This leaflet does not take the place of talking with your doctor. You and your doctor should talk about LEVITRA when you start taking it and at regular checkups. If you do not understand the information, or have questions, talk with your doctor or pharmacist.

**WHAT IMPORTANT INFORMATION SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT LEVITRA?**

LEVITRA can cause your blood pressure to drop suddenly to an unsafe level if it is taken with certain other medicines. With a sudden drop in blood pressure, you could get dizzy, faint, or have a heart attack or stroke.

**Do not take LEVITRA if you:**

- take any medicines called "nitrates."
- use recreational drugs called "poppers" like amyl nitrate and butyl nitrate.
- take medicines called alpha-blockers.

(See "Who Should Not Take LEVITRA?")

Tell all your healthcare providers that you take LEVITRA. If you need emergency medical care for a heart problem, it will be important for your healthcare provider to know when you last took LEVITRA.

**WHAT IS LEVITRA?**

LEVITRA is a prescription medicine taken by mouth for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED) in men.

ED is a condition where the penis does not harden and expand when a man is sexually excited, or when he cannot keep an erection. A man who has trouble getting or keeping an erection should see his doctor for help if the condition bothers him. LEVITRA may help a man with ED get and keep an erection when he is sexually excited.

**LEVITRA does not:**

- cure ED
- increase a man's sexual desire
- protect a man or his partner from sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. Speak to your doctor about ways to guard against sexually transmitted diseases.
- serve as a male form of birth control

LEVITRA is only for men with ED. LEVITRA is not for women or children. LEVITRA must be used only under a doctor's care.

**HOW DOES LEVITRA WORK?**

When a man is sexually stimulated, his body's normal physical response is to increase blood flow to his penis. This results in an erection. LEVITRA helps increase blood flow to the penis and may help men with ED get and keep an erection satisfactory for sexual activity. Once a man has completed sexual activity, blood flow to his penis decreases, and his erection goes away.

**WHO CAN TAKE LEVITRA?**

Talk to your doctor to decide if LEVITRA is right for you.

LEVITRA has been shown to be effective in men over the age of 18 years who have erectile dysfunction, including men with diabetes or who have undergone prostatectomy.

**WHO SHOULD NOT TAKE LEVITRA?**

**Do not take LEVITRA if you:**

- take any medicines called "nitrates" (See "What important information should you know about LEVITRA?"). Nitrates are commonly used to treat angina. Angina is a symptom of heart disease and can cause pain in your chest, jaw, or down your arm. Medicines called nitrates include nitroglycerin that is found in tablets, sprays, ointments, pastes, or patches. Nitrates can also be found in other medicines such as isosorbide dinitrate or isosorbide mononitrate. Some recreational drugs called "poppers" also contain nitrates, such as amyl nitrate and butyl nitrate. Do not use LEVITRA if you are using these drugs. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure if any of your medicines are nitrates.

- take medicines called "alpha-blockers." Alpha-blockers are sometimes prescribed for prostate problems or high blood pressure. If LEVITRA is taken with alpha-blockers, your blood pressure could suddenly drop to an unsafe level. You could get dizzy and faint.
- you have been told by your healthcare provider to not have sexual activity because of health problems. Sexual activity can put an extra strain on your heart, especially if your heart is already weak from a heart attack or heart disease.
- are allergic to LEVITRA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredient in LEVITRA is called vardenafil. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

**WHAT SHOULD YOU DISCUSS WITH YOUR DOCTOR BEFORE TAKING LEVITRA?**

Before taking LEVITRA, tell your doctor about all your medical problems, including if you:

- have heart problems such as angina, heart failure, irregular heartbeats, or have had a heart attack. Ask your doctor if it is safe for you to have sexual activity.
- have low blood pressure or have high blood pressure that is not controlled
- have had a stroke
- or any family members have a rare heart condition known as prolongation of the QT interval (long QT syndrome)
- have liver problems
- have kidney problems and require dialysis
- have retinitis pigmentosa, a rare genetic (runs in families) eye disease
- have stomach ulcers
- have a bleeding problem
- have a deformed penis shape or Peyronie's disease
- have had an erection that lasted more than 4 hours
- have blood cell problems such as sickle cell anemia, multiple myeloma, or leukemia

**CAN OTHER MEDICATIONS AFFECT LEVITRA?**

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. LEVITRA and other medicines may affect each other. Always check with your doctor before starting or stopping any medicines. Especially tell your doctor if you take any of the following:

- medicines called nitrates (See "What important information should you know about LEVITRA?")
- medicines called alpha-blockers. These include Hytrin® (terazosin HCl), Flomax® (tamsulosin HCl), Cardura® (doxazosin mesylate), Minipress® (prazosin HCl) or Uroxatral® (alfuzosin HCl).
- medicines that treat abnormal heartbeat. These include quinidine, procainamide, amiodarone and sotalol.
- ritonavir (Norvir®) or indinavir sulfate (Crixivan®)
- ketoconazole or itraconazole (such as Nizoral® or Sporanox®)
- erythromycin
- other medicines or treatments for ED

**HOW SHOULD YOU TAKE LEVITRA?**

Take LEVITRA exactly as your doctor prescribes. LEVITRA comes in different doses (2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg, and 20 mg). For most men, the recommended starting dose is 10 mg. Take LEVITRA no more than once a day. Doses should be taken at least 24 hours apart. Some men can only take a low dose of LEVITRA because of medical conditions or medicines they take. Your doctor will prescribe the dose that is right for you.

- If you are older than 65 or have liver problems, your doctor may start you on a lower dose of LEVITRA.
- If you are taking certain other medicines your doctor may prescribe a lower starting dose and limit you to one dose of LEVITRA in a 72-hour (3 days) period.

Take 1 LEVITRA tablet about 1 hour (60 minutes) before sexual activity. Some form of sexual stimulation is needed for an erection to happen with LEVITRA. LEVITRA may be taken with or without meals.

Do not change your dose of LEVITRA without talking to your doctor. Your doctor may lower your dose or raise your dose, depending on how your body reacts to LEVITRA.

If you take too much LEVITRA, call your doctor or emergency room right away.

**WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF LEVITRA?**

The most common side effects with LEVITRA are headache, flushing, stuffy or runny nose, indigestion, upset stomach, or dizziness. These side effects usually go away after a few hours. Call your doctor if you get a side effect that bothers you or one that will not go away.

**LEVITRA may uncommonly cause:**

- an erection that won't go away (priapism). If you get an erection that lasts more than 4 hours, get medical help right away. Priapism must be treated as soon as possible or lasting damage can happen to your penis including the inability to have erections.
- vision changes, such as seeing a blue tinge to objects or having difficulty telling the difference between the colors blue and green. These are not all the side effects of LEVITRA. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

**HOW SHOULD LEVITRA BE STORED?**

- Store LEVITRA at room temperature between 59° and 86° F (15° to 30° C).

• **Keep LEVITRA and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

**GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT LEVITRA.**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions other than those described in patient information leaflets. Do not use LEVITRA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give LEVITRA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about LEVITRA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about LEVITRA that is written for health professionals.

For more information you can also visit [www.LEVITRA.com](http://www.LEVITRA.com), or call 1-866-LEVITRA.

**WHAT ARE THE INGREDIENTS OF LEVITRA?**

**Active Ingredient:** vardenafil hydrochloride

**Inactive Ingredients:** microcrystalline cellulose, crospovidone, colloidal silicon dioxide, magnesium stearate, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol, titanium dioxide, yellow ferric oxide, and red ferric oxide.

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ism. Let's move the sports heroes, movie stars and other artistic world turners-on into Column "B." Being captivated by their accomplishments is in no way shameful. Let us, however, reserve Column "A" for the array of selfless heroes in all their anonymity.

— Arthur J. Schuler, Merrick, N.Y.

**Play the game**

I just finished reading the article "Missing Pieces" (November). I find it amazing and incomprehensible how we can expect our intelligence agencies – both civilian and military – to operate while at the same time preventing them from doing so and then blaming them for their failures.

Human intelligence gathering is at best a dirty and extremely dangerous job. Our people put their lives on the line 24/7/365, and we expect them to pass on vital information to their respective departments for analysis and action. These agents must be able to either personally infiltrate an organization or recruit agents from within.

Yes, we are a nation of laws and, for the most part, ethics and integrity. However, the intelligence world is one of cloak and dagger, with operational rules all its own which many civilians would find distasteful. But if we, as a nation, expect to survive in a world of fanatical terrorism, we must play the game to our advantage, as the lives of our citizens hang in the balance.

— Philip E. Giannarco, Glendale, N.Y.

**'Because we can'**

John Walters' argument to keep marijuana illegal is so weak I wonder if he believes it himself (Big Issues, November). "Our medical system relies on proven scientific research to protect U.S. citizens from unsafe and ineffective products," he says. Pardon me? Any man, woman or child with \$8.99 in his pocket can go down to Safeway and buy a bottle of (the herbal aphrodisiac) horny goat weed. Walters is mixing up pharmaceuticals and natural products and medicinal herbs. After admitting that smoking

marijuana makes some people feel better, he says "feeling better is not the standard of modern medicine." I wonder what he thinks Vicodin, Prozac, Valium and valerian root are for? Not to mention Viagra. I would summarize his argument as, "We are the government. We know what is best for you. And dare you disobey us, we will put you in jail for a while, just because we can. So there."

— Roger Hogan, Lakewood, Colo.

## Safer than drugs

John Walters is not telling the whole truth about medicinal marijuana. Well-financed organizations and individuals currently control federal policy on marijuana for their own vested interests or ideology, rather than what's good for Americans. A huge grassroots movement with millions of small donors, supporting organizations like the Marijuana Policy Project, strives to make it legal; it's not all rich people. Major medical organizations all over the United States have endorsed medicinal marijuana, which has no proven health risks, unlike the prescription drugs it would replace. The truth is marijuana works better than prescription drugs, but U.S. drug, tobacco and alcohol companies pay Congress to keep it illegal.

— Michael Flood, Snowflake, Ariz.

## Brothers or benefits?

I served in the U.S. Army, active duty and Reserve. I've been to Iraq, and now I am a veteran who has belonged to the Legion for almost a year. I read the opinions about the election in November's edition. Some made good points, while others made rash criticisms based on superficial and immature judgments. Those are the usual arguments made during any election; no surprise there. Offensive to me, however, are those individuals ranting about veterans benefits.

Frankly, I am quite disgusted and almost embarrassed.

I volunteered to risk my life for my country, my countrymen and my fellow comrades, and I ask nothing but recognition in return. Take away all the benefits, and I would have done the same. My service is degraded by bickering over veterans benefits. Is that what we are all about? We can argue until we are blue in the face about the Clinton administration, Bush, Kerry, 9/11, Afghanistan and Iraq. The fact is that war has been brought upon us, and therefore we are at war regardless if Congress declares war or not. Being soldiers, we should know that decisions had to be made and the commander in chief made them. Right or wrong, and whether you agree or not, those decisions led to one undeniable fact: our fellow comrades are engaged in battle. My primary concern is that they are the best trained, most well equipped and professional soldiers out there.

— Jason Camillo, Pittsburgh

## England's example

Joyce Lee Malcolm takes a slanted view of the gun situation in England. ("The Case for Self-Protection," October) She cites several anomalies, quirks that have occurred as a result of restrictive gun laws. England suffers from a serious terrorist problem due to troubles in Northern Ireland and has instituted those gun laws, among others, to combat it. Our terrorism problem is much more recent and we are still trying to find ways to combat it.

I think the English have done a much better job. In an average year, the murder rate is about 700 out of a population of 60 million. California, with a population of about 35 million, averages 4,000 murders a year. Most, except the National Rifle Association, believe this disparity is due to lax gun

controls in this country. Many will say England doesn't have the United States' diverse population, which is not entirely true. Canada has a population almost as different as ours, slightly less than California's, and a murder rate about the same as England's. Canada also has restrictive gun laws. If you don't believe it, try taking one across the border.

You may be robbed or assaulted in England, Canada or France, but you won't be killed. You can't say the same about the United States.

— Robert Courtney, Copperopolis, Calif.

## Roots of crime

Thank you for the excellent article on the failure of Britain's restrictive gun laws, which stated the problems so accurately and without bias. The Clinton-era "assault-weapons" ban is a fine example of American laws that are failures. By focusing on cosmetics rather than functionality, this ill-conceived law did nothing to address the real cause of violent crime in America: gangs, drugs, poverty and lack of good educational opportunities. Until politicians have the courage to focus on tough issues rather than the symbolic ones, violent crime will never be addressed.

— Louis J. Berardi, Downers Grove, Ill.

## Forgotten four

The October article "The National Guard: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" names only four of the eight Guard divisions called into federal service during the Korean War. In addition to the four named, the others were the 31st (Alabama), the 37th (Ohio), the 44th (Illinois) and the 47th (Minnesota) Infantry Divisions. While none of the four were deployed overseas as divisions, almost all Guardsmen were "levied" and sent to Korea as replacements for the Army and Guard divisions serving there.

— Richard Dunn, Carmel, Calif.

## THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters are subject to editing.  
*The American Legion Magazine*, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206 • magazine@legion.org

# A time of opportunity for veterans

**E**lection 2004 was one of unprecedented participation and, now that it's over, opportunity. More than 115 million Americans voted. Thousands knocked on doors, planted yard signs and donated money to their favorite candidates. Others wrote letters to editors, registered voters and drove people to the polls.

The American Legion also played a major role. Through its nonpartisan Impact 2004 campaign, thousands of veterans and their families learned where candidates stood on issues such as veterans health care, the war on terrorism, immigration and the flag amendment. Both President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry addressed our 86th National Convention and granted exclusive interviews in *The American Legion Magazine*. Americans were divided in this election, as was reflected in our Impact 2004 online poll.

I congratulate President Bush on his re-election and call upon him to remember the promises he made to veterans and their families.

"I am committed to ensuring that the VA system is accountable to veterans, and my budgets are giving VA the resources it needs to respond to the health-care needs of all enrolled veterans," the president said on our Impact '04 Web site. The American Legion believes VA can be held accountable and given its needed resources through mandatory funding, making the department less dependent on the whims of legislators who often attempt to balance the budget on the backs of veterans, thanks to the discretionary funding formula now in place. I urge the president to consider making mandatory funding a priority in his second term.

President Bush deserves credit for his steadfast support of a constitutional amendment that would allow Congress to protect the flag of the United States from desecration. "The flag is the symbol of America's freedom. The flag is not only a part of our history, it's a part of our future," President Bush said in *The American Legion Magazine*. "I believe the constitutional amendment is necessary, and I am a strong supporter of it, and will continue to lobby on behalf of it."

Mr. President, now that we have some new senators, your lobbying can make the difference. Just a few more votes in the Senate could allow the American people to decide whether Old Glory should get the respect it deserves.

The American Legion offers its unwavering support in the war on terror. When it comes to assisting the troops, our organization remains a stalwart advocate and we call upon the administration and Congress to provide adequate training, housing, pay and benefits to America's fighting men and women.

We also call upon the president and Congress to protect America's porous borders. This gaping hole in the U.S. security blanket must be addressed before those who wish us harm strike again.

Elections and inaugurations are times of celebration. I call upon our elected leaders to never forget the men and women who make these institutions possible. The American Legion certainly won't.

*Thomas P. Cadmus*



National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus  
*Jeff Stoffer*

## *memoranda*

### **PLAN NOW FOR BLUE STAR SALUTE**

Now is the time to start planning for the "Blue Star Salute" on May 21 – Armed Forces Day. In addition to honoring servicemembers and their families, the event provides unique opportunities to promote awareness of the Blue Star Banner program, the Family Support Network, the Reconnect program, the American Legacy Scholarship and to recruit new members. Comprehensive planning guides were recently distributed to post and district commanders. Radio and television public service announcements are available free upon request.

For more information, contact: The American Legion National Headquarters, Public Relations Division, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204; call **(317) 630-1253**; E-mail [pr@legion.org](mailto:pr@legion.org).

### **CARRY THE PENTAGON CHANNEL**

The American Legion is calling on all U.S. cable television companies to carry The Pentagon Channel. The channel is currently available to military bases and is offered free to stateside satellite and cable providers. The Legion hopes the channel will strengthen communication between the Pentagon and the 1.2 million members of the National Guard and Reserve who live in communities across the country, often far from military bases. A sample letter to a cable company may be obtained by calling the public relations office at **(317) 630-1253**.

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# Re-importing drugs to America



## SUPPORT

### Sen. Debbie Stabenow D-Mich.

■ Michigan's first female U.S. senator, Stabenow is a recognized leader in health-care legislation.

Prescription drug prices have skyrocketed, rising three and a half times the rate of inflation last year alone. Unfortunately, efforts to lower prices have been stymied at every turn by the pharmaceutical lobby and its Washington allies.

Skyrocketing drug prices are creating pressure to cut back on VA benefits. In last year's proposed budget, the administration tried to double veterans' prescription drug co-pays. VA was so under-funded that nearly 1.7 million veterans lacked health insurance or access to VA facilities.

We can make health care more affordable for veterans and all Americans now by allowing U.S. pharmacists to safely do business with pharmacists in Canada and other nations. Sadly, federal law prohibits this kind of competition.

I am spearheading bipartisan legislation that would reduce prices up to 70 percent by allowing pharmacists to re-import prescription drugs from specified industrialized countries, if they comply with strict safety regulations.

The pharmaceutical industry criticizes re-importation as unsafe. Yet it brings medicine into our country every day. In 2002, it imported \$14.3 billion in drugs from Ireland – including the blockbuster drug Lipitor – through a safe, closed supply chain between wholesalers and manufacturers. Our government recently negotiated with Canada for nearly 2 million flu vaccine doses. American ingenuity can offer the same safe system to veterans through their pharmacists.

Today, more people are turning to the Internet to obtain lower-priced prescription drugs without safety protections. Senior citizens are crossing the Canadian border in buses. That's no long-term solution. We should be able to go to the corner pharmacy to obtain our prescriptions at the lowest possible price. Why not lift the prohibition so that we can make purchasing medicine safe, legal and convenient for Americans?

## CONTACT YOUR LEADERS

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable (name), House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121



## OPPOSE

### Sally C. Pipes CEO, Pacific Research Institute

■ Pipes is author of *"Miracle Cure: How To Solve America's Health Care Crisis and Why Canada Isn't the Answer."*

It sounds like a great deal: import prescription drugs from Canada and save – depending on who is talking – 20, 30, 40 percent.

Well, the savings are not nearly what are being claimed, and the downside is both certain and substantial. Canadian drugs are cheap because they are subject to price controls. Once they enter the U.S. market, you cannot have two prices for

the same good in Canada and the United States. Either middlemen will bid prices up to U.S. market levels, or the price controls will be imported along with the drugs.

If middlemen work their magic, no savings will come unless U.S. consumers begin to buy massive quantities of drugs in Canada. However, the U.S. market is so big relative to Canada – \$160 billion vs.

\$14 billion – that either the Canadian government or large pharmacies, or both, inevitably will impose restrictions on drug exports to the United States.

In fact, the Canadian International Pharmacy Association, representing 30 Internet pharmacies, recently ruled that it will not ship drugs to new states and municipalities in the United States. And the Best Medicines Coalition in Canada has asked the Canadian government to stop the shipments to avoid drug shortages.

Price controls will have serious consequences for the United States. The air will be sucked out of the research and development process that has saved countless lives and eased human suffering. It costs more than \$800 million to bring a new drug to market.

Think of all the diseases and conditions that still await cures and treatments. Should we mortgage our medical future for artificial savings?

Nor should we dismiss the safety issue. Once the importation gates are opened, the incentive to export adulterated drugs to the United States will strengthen.

The importation of drugs subject to foreign price controls is a terrible idea.

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# When Something Smells *Fishy*

*FDA fish sniffers have the sense to stop bad seafood.*

---

BY JAMES V. CARROLL

James D. Barnett guards America's coastal borders with his nose. He prefers to be called a sensory specialist, but when it comes right down to it, he's a fish sniffer. He does it for a living, and he's one of the best.

A former U.S. Food and Drug Administration tea taster, Barnett is among two dozen or so FDA sensory specialists whose job is to sniff out bad seafood before it reaches America's consumer market. He and his fellow sniffers practice their craft from seven mega-labs scattered throughout the country. Barnett is stationed in Bothell, Wash.

"It's a smelly job sometimes, and it's a job few people want to do," Barnett explains between whiffs of a suspect piece of ocean whitefish. "Sticking your nose into raw fish and other seafood might be less than appealing to most people, but it is an important task serving an important purpose."

FDA sensory specialist James D. Barnett gives raw lobster tail the smell test.

*James V. Carroll*

Sensory specialists are not born that way, Barnett says. While a keen nose is helpful, other senses play important roles in detecting spoiled, diseased or tainted seafood. "No matter how good our sense of smell might be, we also rely on our senses of touch, sight and taste to catch bad seafood," Barnett explains, as he rips open a raw shrimp, feels its texture and notes its appearance before raising it to his nose. "Fresh shrimp has little odor and has somewhat a translucent appearance and a firm feel. Spoiled shrimp, on the other hand, has a distinct odor and sometimes appears as if it were already cooked."

Odor, however, is the first clue. Fresh seafood usually doesn't have much. If the seafood section in a supermarket has a strong scent, Barnett says, find another. And don't be afraid to ask to sniff a seafood product before purchasing it. If it doesn't smell right, act accordingly.

Odor alone, however, does not always determine the freshness of a sea creature, Barnett warns. Some species naturally smell old or spoiled but are perfectly fine. Others may be spoiled, but hardly any offending odor can be detected. Preparation methods also can mask olfactory evidence.

"Canned tuna is the most difficult product to evaluate," Barnett says. "To start with, four different species are canned, each with its own characteristic odor. Add scorching during preparation to the equation or the inclusion of additive ingredients such as soy protein, and it becomes very difficult to evaluate tuna's condition."

"That's why experience plays such an important role in our determinations. We might not like the way the tuna smells, but we know that certain odors have more to do with species and preparation than they do with

freshness. Only experience can sort out those variables."

The freshness of frozen seafood is also difficult to determine, Barnett says, but inspectors have learned through experience that a common household drill is a useful forensic tool. A drill bit boring into a block of frozen fish creates friction that, in turn, creates heat that melts fish flesh in contact with the heated drill bit. The result is a release of volatile odors from the thawed fish. "I don't know who thought up the idea, but it works."

Freezing fish is not the effective way it once was to mask the odor of bad product."

FDA's handful of sensory experts cannot be expected to sniff every piece of seafood that enters the country, Barnett says – no more than can customs agents be expected to manually inspect every dockside cargo container. But that doesn't mean it is unsafe to eat imported seafood finding its way to America's dinner tables.

"Thousands of FDA entry reviewers and inspectors, with cooperation from U.S. Customs officials, closely monitor ships and their cargos entering America's seaports," Barnett says. "We pay particular attention to shipments from certain countries or to individual shippers we have had problems with on earlier occasions. We also closely scrutinize types of seafood products that are problem-prone."

So-called toxic species

are more closely monitored and sampled, Barnett says. Mackerel, mahi mahi and some species of tuna can transform certain amino acids into histamine under high temperatures. Consumption of histamine can cause illness or death to humans sensitive to it.

Seafood safety is sensitive to time, temperature and sanitation, Barnett says. Trained professionals can tell, through the nose and otherwise, if a certain piece of fish is fresh, questionable or definitely spoiled and unsafe to eat.

"A fresh fish has a bright shiny skin, its eyes are clear, its pupils black, its gills have little or no slime buildup and its belly wall is bright and shiny," Barnett says while re-examining an ocean whitefish. "A fresh fish is almost translucent. But as quality diminishes, the skin dulls, redness appears around pupils that take on an opaque look, and the belly wall exhibits a redness indicating belly burn. These are all indicators that a fish might not be fresh or even safe to eat."

Short of carrying an electric drill to the supermarket, it is a little more difficult to determine the freshness of frozen seafood, Barnett says. But keen-eyed shoppers can detect subtle clues. Ice crystals in a frozen product might mean the seafood had been thawed and refrozen or frozen at a very slow rate. Both situations could affect the freshness of the



Experience aids fish sniffers in detecting unique odors of seafood species.

*James V. Carroll*

product. Fish flesh should be translucent, even if frozen. An opaque-appearing product might not be as fresh.

As automation has found its way into the corners of U.S. society, so too has it reached the fish sniffers. Electronic "smelling machines" have been successfully developed, suggesting that Barnett and his fish sniffing compatriots might soon go the way of tea-tasters and be put out to pasture. But Barnett spends little time

looking over his shoulder.

"The thing about the electronic nose is that it has to be programmed to detect and evaluate odors," Barnett says. "You have to have people like myself to actually give the machine samples to learn the various levels of quality. We also have learned that sensors in the machines tend to lose their sensitivity rather rapidly, and we have to constantly reprogram them. We don't have to do that with our noses. I don't think the

current crop of electronic noses will replace us anytime soon."

It's not a job for everyone, Barnett says. Recruits go through a battery of workshops and on-the-job training to access their sensory abilities. Candidates are paired with experienced mentors to guide them through routine and rare circumstances. They also undergo controlled tests to determine their progress.

"We try to get new blood, but some people come in here and

## q&a

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is charged with ensuring the safety and security of things people consume. The agency has approximately 10,500 employees. About half work in the field. FDA has offices in most major cities and in 90 of

America's 300 seaports. Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the agency has strengthened protective programs and initiated new counterterrorism safeguards. FDA's acting commissioner, Lester M. Crawford, recently spoke with *The American Legion Magazine* about FDA's counterterrorism activities.



**The American Legion Magazine:** What role does the FDA play in the war against terrorism?

**Lester M. Crawford:** We are very concerned about terrorism, particularly bioterrorism, anthrax, and a number of other organisms and chemicals known as "select agents" that are substances that could cause some sort of catastrophic terrorist event. Many, if not most, of these select agents can be spread through things that FDA regulates. The regulated item that has gotten the most attention in terms of what we have done to prepare for and prevent terrorist attacks is food.

**Q:** Why turn the most attention to food?

**A:** In the past, FDA had very weak authority to regulate food. What authority we had was based on a very old law passed in 1906. Some of the things we could do with drugs, medical devices and even veterinary drugs we couldn't do with food because of the age of the law and because it was generally perceived that we were doing a good job at policing the food supply. Since the passage of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, FDA has been putting in place a series of regulations, as well as

working closely with the Customs and Border Protection unit at the Department of Homeland Security.

**Q:** Is FDA capable of adequately protecting U.S. drug and food supply?

**A:** We do not inspect everything. What we do is target our concerns where the risk is greatest. Following Sept. 11, we raised the profile a great deal. We go where there is a history. We focus on the most probable products that might cause human illness or products more likely to be used as vehicles for terrorist attack.

**Q:** What are some of FDA's challenges?

**A:** The threat of bioterrorism certainly challenges us. Importation of foreign drugs is a challenge. Mad-cow disease is another challenge. FDA has the primary responsibility to regulate animal feed, which is where mad-cow disease is transmitted. Congress is rapidly moving toward giving FDA the authority to regulate tobacco, and that will be a challenge.

**Q:** What are some of FDA's accomplishments?

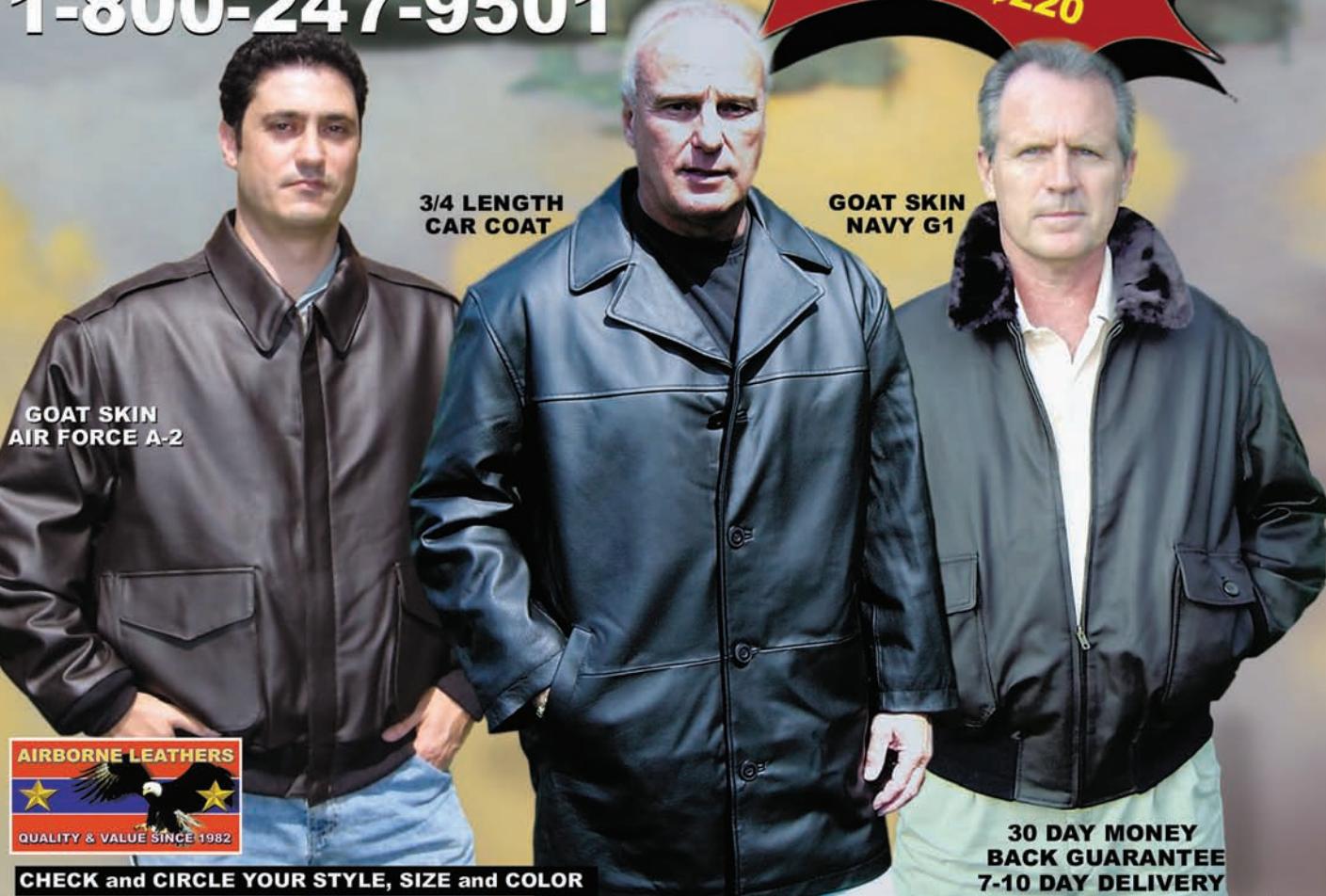
**A:** We have put together a very impressive obesity program that makes it easier for consumers to get the relevant nutrition information they need. The program is widely celebrated as the most comprehensive approach to dealing with obesity by any country. Obesity most likely will overtake cigarette smoking as the leading cause of death by the end of this decade. We also are working on a four-tiered system that permits food manufacturers to make specific health claims. We have improved a user-fee system that enables FDA to more efficiently approve and regulate products under its jurisdiction. FDA has undertaken a wholesale overhaul of how medical products are regulated that will help narrow the time between development and sale or use by the public. This new approach will save lives.

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after a couple of weeks decide the job's not for them – especially when they are confronted with some of the putrid stuff we come across," Barnett says. "You do get used to the odors at work, but my wife sometimes wrinkles her nose at me when I get home. My clothes sometimes smell pretty bad. I can wash up and put on clean clothes, but sometimes odors persist."

Barnett brings home more than smelly clothes at the end of the day. He also admits he is unable to go to a restaurant and enjoy seafood without first giving it a professional once-over.

"I love to go out to eat, but it's sometimes difficult for me to sit down as a tourist would and blindly dive into the fish of the day," Barnett says. "I've been trained to look at seafood and assess it for what it is. I've definitely found bad seafood at restaurants, and I don't hesitate to tell them it is unacceptable. I guess you could say that I'm on duty 24 hours a day." ¶

*James V. Carroll is an assistant editor at The American Legion Magazine.*

*Article design: King Doxsee*

## ON THE NOSE

1. The human nose is capable of distinguishing more than 10,000 different smells.
2. The nose's scent-detecting olfactory receptor neurons are located at the top of the nasal cavity in the back of the nose. Hundreds occupy a space about the size of a postage stamp.
3. For the nose to distinguish an odor, volatile free-floating odor molecules must enter the nasal passage and come into contact with hair-like cilia attached to the receptor neurons. Contact activates the neurons, sending a message to the brain and causing a person to perceive a scent.
4. People who have missing or damaged genes may be unable to detect certain odors.
5. Newborns and their mothers can recognize each other by smell.
6. Lady Liberty's nose is 4.5 feet long.
7. Ninety-five percent of the nasal cavity has nothing to do with the sense of smell but rather to filter, warm and humidify air taken into the lungs.
8. Dogs have 100 times more olfactory receptors per square centimeter than do humans, explaining their better sense of smell.
9. Ten percent to 20 percent of bad breath odor emanates from the nasal cavity, not the mouth.
10. Nasal fatigue can set in when a person is exposed to odors for extended periods, explaining why musty or smoky odors seem to disappear a short while after you enter an enclosed room.
11. Five muscles are commonly found in the nose: procerus, depressor septi, nasalis, dilatator naris posterior and dilatator naris anterior. Among other duties, these muscles help to draw down the eyebrows, wrinkle the nose and help to keep open nostrils that might otherwise close due to atmospheric pressure.
12. Some bloodhounds can detect the smell of a human body in 10 feet of lake water.
13. Nose jobs, or rhinoplasty, are second only to cosmetic eyelid surgery. The average fee for a nose job is \$4,641.

*Sources: Baylor College of Medicine, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, HowStuffWorks.com, InfoPlease.com, Gray's Anatomy, and American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*

# Nasal discovery earns Nobel Prize

Two American scientists whose work demystified the way the nose distinguishes one odor from another received the 2004 Nobel Prize in Medicine.

Linda Buck, 57, of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, and Richard Axel, 58, of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Columbia University in New York split the \$1.36 million prize.

In a 1991 paper in the journal *Cell*, the two scientists reported that certain genes produce nasal cells capable of sorting out, with the brain's

help, more than 10,000 unique scents. The discovery that each nasal cell type is sensitive to only one scent-producing chemical was unexpected, Buck and Axel said.

Discovery of how the nose distinguishes one odor from another is an important step in developing practical pharmaceutical applications, says cell biologist James Battey of the National Institutes of Health.

– J.V.C.

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# English, American Style

Longtime PBS broadcaster Robert MacNeil has spent his life immersed in the English language. He grew up in Nova Scotia, the son of a mother who would not tolerate mispronounced words or incorrect grammar. When he became a disc jockey as a young man, he realized his mother's proper diction was too stale for pop-music audiences and tried to change it. Later, when he attempted to become an actor in the United States, he had to conceal his unique dialect – a concoction of North Atlantic chowder and Tennessee spice. As his television career bloomed at NBC, the BBC and later as co-host of

PBS's award-winning "MacNeil/Lehrer Report," his resonant voice and impeccable language skills made MacNeil something of a thinking man's anchor, if not by the content of his programs then at least by his mastery of the language. He is an author of fiction and nonfiction books. He produced the acclaimed 1986 PBS documentary "The Story of English."

He knows the language.

However, until MacNeil went out to research "Do You Speak American?" – a three-part series that airs this month, starting Jan. 5, on PBS – he did not know what "witchudidja" meant.

Redneck comedian Jeff Foxworthy, interviewed in the documentary, used it in a sentence. "Hey, you didn't bring your truck witchudidja?"

That particular compound interrogative is just one entry in MacNeil's cross-country travel log of dialects, accents, euphemisms and terms that distinguish American English from the Queen's. His journey took him to places like "dahn-tahn" Pittsburgh, where glossaries of Pittsburghese are promoted to tourists. He

went to the South Carolina islands, where old slave-trade dialects like Gullah and Geetchee remain so thick subtitles were necessary for the documentary. In inner-city Detroit, MacNeil learned that adjectives like "sick" and "raw" really mean "good" or "high quality" to the young, urban hip-hop crowd. In California, he encountered "Spanglish," "Surferdude" and "Valleygirl." He talked with a long-haul truck driver, a Hollywood filmmaker, a country-music singer, a dictionary editor, a theater critic, a voice-activated computer developer and many others in an attempt to understand why and how American English has carved a separate place among world languages. And, according to MacNeil, it has. He quotes "The Oxford Guide to World English" when he claims that "for every one speaker of British English, there are four speakers of American."

MacNeil recently spoke with *The American Legion Magazine*.



Don Perdue/WNET

*Documentary explores  
the many ways our nation  
speaks the same language.*

**The American Legion Magazine:**  
*Why should we be concerned about  
such a thing as an American  
English language?*

**Robert MacNeil:** Our language is a very intimate part of our identity. How it's used, the way we speak and how we relate to the way other people speak is very important to us as individuals. It provokes strong emotions. Some Americans think the way other Americans speak is just awful. There are all sorts of opportunities for inclusion, exclusion, snobbishness, what have you.

**Q:** *During the presidential campaign, Americans saw two distinctly different speakers of the language. Do you think voters were affected?*

**A:** Yes, I think so. I think part of Mr. Bush's appeal is that he speaks a very relaxed and colloquial language. Listening to him, you could find all kinds of occasions where the subject and verb don't agree. But that's the relaxed way the majority of Americans speak. In the series, I said at one point that "talkin' country" has become a kind of informal way of speaking American. To a large degree, George W. Bush – despite his elitist background in the Northeast – talks country. He drops his "g" at the end of "ing" words. He says, "There's no negotiations with North Korea." Well, that's the kind of strict agreement of subject and verb the great majority of Americans don't bother about. And so, probably, it's appealing. It's folksy, down to earth ... I think it's part of his political appeal.

**Q:** *What about John Kerry?*

**A:** Kerry uses the language more correctly. Whom that impresses and whom it doesn't is sort of a description about tendencies in American life. Americans are very concerned to be correct, but they don't want to be too correct, because they think it's snobbish or elitist. So, how Kerry appeals, compared to how Bush appeals, really goes to the heart of how Americans perceive language.

**Q:** *Some public figures deliberately conceal their linguistic roots. Didn't you have to modify your English at the beginning of your career?*

**A:** Yeah, a couple of ways. After a couple of years of college, I dropped out to become an all-night disc jockey for a year. I found that my rather starchy speech, which I'd grown up with, was totally inappropriate for carrying on as a disc jockey doing popular music. I had to consciously make an effort to sound more colloquial, more folksy, which was kind of funny. When I came to the States hoping to be an actor, when I was 21, I got on the stage of this little bar and theatre in New England, south of Boston, and they said, "Hey, you can't talk like that."

With my Nova Scotia background, part of the Atlantic Canadian dialect is to make the word "out" rhyme with "oat." And "about" is "a boat." In fact, in Nova Scotia you can say, "I'm going to go oat and aboat in a boat." And when I go back there – my brothers live there – and I am with them for a while or had a few pops or am tired, I sound that

way again. You can't really erase it, I don't think.

**Q:** *As you were working on the series, talking with people of strong dialects, did you catch yourself talking like them?*

**A:** I would call back home to New York City, from California, and my wife Donna would say, "You're talking Valleygirl" or "Surfer-dude." I have done that all my life. I have lived in many places. I had a southern grandmother who came from Tennessee. I had a Nova Scotian grandfather, a father from Montreal and a mother from Nova Scotia. They all spoke differently. When I was a kid, my grandfather said "garriage" and my mother said "garage." And then I lived for 16 years in England and dealt as a reporter with all kinds of English people.

When two people who speak differently start a conversation, chances are both of them are going to edge a little toward the way the other one speaks. Linguists call it middling. There is a desire to be liked and to make psychological contact.

**Q:** *In your travels, did you find versions of American English particularly difficult to understand?*

**A:** There's a group of men there in a restaurant having coffee and they are speaking Cajun French – and then Cajun English. I speak a fair amount of French, and I come from a part of Canada where the Cajuns originally came from, and I am sort of familiar. But when they switched back and forth very

quickly, I found that hard to understand. You'd need to hear it slowed down.

**Q:** *What about the union of English and Spanish you label "Spanglish" in the series?*

**A:** Switching in mid-sentence back and forth – that is quite common. It is rather similar to what the Cajuns were doing – the older men.

**Q:** *What are some of the sociological effects of speaking with distinguishable dialects?*

**A:** It certainly has an effect in social attitudes – what one region of the country thinks about another. That's covered in the series. It's a main ingredient of social put-downs. How people talk, as one of our linguists said, is the thing that people most notice about you after your appearance. Another positive way of looking at it is the enormous rich diversity of this country, which Americans are beginning to celebrate more rather than disparage. OK, there is all of that. But then there is the difficulty of – as we found with (Stanford University linguist) John Baugh when renting apartments using different accents – you are discriminated against because of your accent, and it can have serious economic consequences. The extreme version of that is the kids – black urban kids – who go to school and are treated with contempt because of their language and often treated as uneducable. Now that means they are much more likely not to learn to read and to drop out, and as you know, the dropout rate among urban blacks is way higher than among whites. In effect, you are condemning them to a deeper cycle of poverty and social morbidity. It seems to me that white and even some middle-class black attitudes to black urban

vernacular are so negative that they are, as we say in the series, major obstacles in the effort to overcome the legacy of slavery.

At the end of the series, when we get into voice-recognition technology and computers that will speak and supposedly understand us, that is where all the different dialects in America may be apt to prejudice – trying to make reservations on an airline when the computer they get on the telephone won't understand them.

**Q:** *Do such technological developments lead America toward a more homogenized language?*

**A:** The conclusion of the series is that we are not. There is a widely held assumption by many Americans that immersion in mass media, particularly television, is homogenizing our speech and making us all sound the same. Linguists do not believe that. My feeling about the series is that it makes the case strongly that far from homogenizing our speech, media are having a certain effect in popularizing key phrases, making people around the country aware, and maybe even understanding, different dialects. But they are not wiping out those dialects. Where dialects are disappearing it's because of movements of population – for instance, on the sea islands off the Carolinas or the coast of Maine and in Appalachia. Population changes and movements of people are causing the changes, not the media, and some dialects are taking root even more strongly.

**Q:** *Has the military experience been influential?*

**A:** In the Second World War when, probably for the first time, people from different regions of the country and totally different ways of life all found themselves serving together, there must have

been a great deal of linguistic exchange. But if you're in a foxhole with somebody – you're south and he's north – the language is going to be the least important thing between you.

The military has popularized certain kinds of euphemisms, like "collateral damage" and acronyms ... the way "snafu" did in the Second World War.

**Q:** *What part does immigration play?*

**A:** It is bound to, as it has always done. We're not just picking up from Hispanic migrants, but Korean and Japanese and Chinese ... usually it comes from borrowings of vocabulary, like food terms. A whole lot of Americans now know what sushi is, for example. It was some time in the '90s that the sales of salsa surpassed those of ketchup for the first time; it was sort of a tidal moment in our cultural history. Now, Americans not just from the Southwest – in the Northeast, Northwest, everywhere – they know all the Mexican food terms. It's part of the general American vocabulary now.

**Q:** *Is a movement afoot toward an international language?*

**A:** When we did "The Story of English" – nine hours on the history and spread of the English language all over the world – we came to the conclusion that artificial efforts, for instance Esperanto, really fell by the wayside because English became so dominant. In effect, English has become the world language. Now it's spoken, including second-language speakers, by about a fifth of the world population. But it's a very influential fifth. And it is the American version of the language. ☺

*Interview: Jeff Stoffer*

*Article design: Holly K. Soria*

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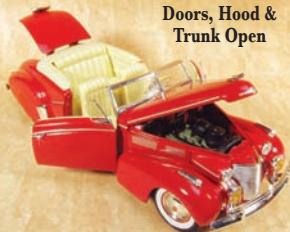


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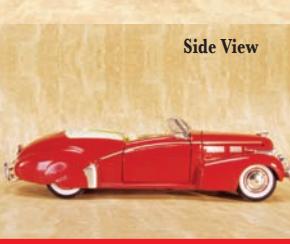
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# The Fifth Estate

*Think tanks assume a more vital role on the battlefield of American policy.*

---

**BY GARY L. GEIPEL**

**T**hey are everywhere. Almost every state capital has at least one; Washington has dozens. No one knows exactly how many exist. Modest estimates put the number at more than 300 now operating in the United States, employing thousands of people. The rest of the world doesn't have quite as many – yet.

More and more public officials seem to have spent time in one of them. It is difficult to watch a national television newscast without seeing a representative of one of these groups – particularly after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. It is impossible to read a major newspaper or magazine – including this one – without seeing an article or a comment they have contributed. They publish books, briefing papers and newsletters. They all seem to have Web sites, pumping information to every corner of cyberspace.

They are think tanks.

Donald E. Abelson of the University of Western Ontario offers a one-sentence definition of think tanks. He writes that think tanks are “nonprofit, non-partisan – which does not mean non-ideological – research-oriented institutes among whose primary objectives are to influence public opinion and public policy.” Abelson’s definition aside, you may still wonder, “What do think tanks really do?”

Few institutions have spread so widely in public life while remaining so mysterious to most Americans. Some pundits call think tanks the “fifth estate” – competing with the executive branch, the legislatures, the courts and the media for influence on U.S. public policy. And yet few people understand why think tanks are created, where and how they exert their supposed influence, and by what means they are funded.

**Common History.** Think tanks do have some common history and a few common features. According to the "World Directory of Think Tanks" – a unique resource compiled in Japan – the oldest continuously operating think tank is the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, founded in 1831 in Britain by the Duke of Wellington. The Russell Sage Foundation – focused on the social sciences – and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – dedicated to global issues – arose in the early 20th century from two of America's industrial fortunes. The Washington-based Brookings Institution is the oldest independent think tank in the United States. It dates back to 1916 and has tackled policy issues ranging from health care to public housing to arms control.

None of these traditional groups called itself a "think tank" when it was founded. The term was first applied in the 1940s to a group that became the RAND Corp., still the most widely recognized name among think tanks. RAND was the brainchild of H.H. "Hap" Arnold, commanding general of the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. Arnold was concerned that the wartime concentration of talent from the military, government, industry and the universities would dissipate in peacetime, leaving the country unprepared for future challenges.

"Scientific planning must be years in advance of the actual research and development work," Arnold wrote to the secretary of war. RAND's first report in 1946 lived up to that demand for forward-looking analysis. More than a decade before Sputnik, the report was titled "Preliminary Design of an Experimental World-Circling Spaceship." RAND depended heavily on Air Force and other Pentagon contracts in its early decades, but since 1948, it has operated as a private, nonprofit organization.

The quality of being linked to – but separate from – agencies and leaders of government is RAND's most influential innovation on think tanks that came later. University scholars tend to concern themselves with the development of theory and with other forms of "basic research," which may or may not lead to practical innovations. Government officials, for their part, tend to be consumed by the crises of the moment. Think tanks fill the gap. They deal with real-world problems but, ideally, they help prevent crises by anticipating opportunities and threats that may not be visible to those consumed by the day-to-day responsibilities of government.

The majority of U.S. think tanks are, like RAND, set up as nonprofit organizations, similar to charities and churches. This status allows them to accept tax-deductible donations and avoid paying taxes them-

selves. In return, nonprofit think tanks must operate in the public interest. All reports and other products must be publicly available, with the exception of classified material prepared for government agencies. They can put policy proposals into circulation but cannot engage in any partisan political activity or support specific pieces of legislation. They can accept money from corporations and business interests but not in exchange for any work that is exclusive to the donor – which is why private companies looking for analyses of their own business prospects usually turn to for-profit consulting firms.

**Roles and Revenues.** Beyond these few legal similarities, think tanks diverge widely, beginning with their informal roles. Large think tanks, for example, often serve as "retirement homes" for former high-ranking government officials, providing places where VIPs can hold court and stay in the game in exchange for helping the organization attract large donations. Especially in Washington, think tanks also serve as "waiting rooms" for people who still aspire to public office but whose political party is currently out of power. And think tanks certainly act as "back rooms" for some elected officials, providing advice and research that extends the capacity of a politician's own paid staff.

Washington possesses the highest concentration of think tanks. However, growing regional diversity and the prospect of launching a hot new policy idea in one of America's 50 state "laboratories" has led to extensive think-tank activity throughout the country. For example, the so-called "welfare-to-work" reforms eventually adopted as federal policy by the Clinton administration – which eliminate cash entitlements in favor of efforts to move people into paying jobs – began as state-level experiments. Think tanks helped to design the experiments and to spread the word about successful results.

A tiny number of think tanks have annual revenues in the tens of millions of dollars and staffs of hundreds, but the averages are much smaller. Fax machines, at first, and now the Internet have allowed even two- or three-person groups of thinkers to spread their ideas to wide audiences with relatively small investments.

**Ideological Vehicles.** As technology encouraged the proliferation of think tanks in the 1980s and 1990s, another significant change occurred. Rather than attempting to carry out purely objective analyses, increasing numbers of think tanks claimed distinct ideological perspectives – more often conservative. At the state level, think tanks basing their recom-



mandations on free markets, individual responsibility and traditional values emerged at three times the rate of liberal think tanks through the mid-1990s.

The Internet and even some academic articles on public policy are full of dark ramblings about right-wing think tanks, suggesting that they are part of a well-funded conspiracy. But the truth is much simpler. Looking at university faculties and the mainstream media in the late 20th century, conservatives saw themselves as hopelessly outmanned in the battle of ideas and doubted they would be allowed to join the ranks of existing organizations in large numbers. They seized upon think tanks as an alternative.

Washington's Heritage Foundation set the standard for conservatives trying to use think tanks to regain influence on public policy. Founded in 1973, Heritage did three things exceptionally well. First, it mobilized conservative donors from throughout the United States, including Joe Coors of the Colorado brewing family, who contributed millions from his personal fortune while recruiting many other supporters. Second, rather than firing off its ideas randomly, Heritage concentrated its influence on Congress, where the impact of some decisions lasts for generations. Finally, Heritage communicated its recommendations in crisp articles and briefing papers rather than in weighty books that few people would read.

By 1985, according to *The New Republic* – a liberal magazine – Heritage had become “the most important think tank in the nation's capital.” Arming the

Reagan administration and conservatives in Congress with proposals, challenging court rulings, and using the media to build grassroots support for its ideas, Heritage took on that “fifth estate” role that either cheered or angered the people watching its progress – depending on their own ideological persuasions, of course.

**Products of Freedom.** Success has many imitators, so it is no coincidence that the Heritage model has been widely imitated – increasingly by liberal as well as conservative groups with all manner of particular agendas. A geographic and/or an issue-based niche that attracts donors, strong relationships with policymakers and an aggressive communications strategy are now the core elements of almost every new think tank's “business plan.”

Large, university-style research organizations existed in a handful of other countries even before RAND, but the modern think tank is a quintessentially American creature. Think tanks are the products of freedom. They depend on free expression and the free market, and like most products of freedom – think of U.S. churches – they are prolific, contentious and highly diverse.

It is encouraging that the think-tank model – so tied to freedom – has been successfully exported to many parts of the world in recent years, especially after the collapse of communism. U.S. foundations such as Pew Charitable Trusts and the German Marshall Fund of the United States invested millions

## Think Tanks in Action

Real-world examples of how think tanks compete on the battlefield of ideas:

### Enlarging NATO

The decision to enlarge the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to include several Eastern European countries – once members of the opposing Warsaw Pact – probably would have happened much later, if at all, were it not for the work of think tanks. RAND experts carried out research on the ground in Eastern Europe, crafted several options for Europe's post-Cold War security structure and analyzed the tradeoffs behind various options for the United States and its allies. In its even-handed way, RAND took no position on enlargement. Its staff, in fact, was deeply divided on the issue. But RAND's pro-enlarge-

case, argued in the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill by Ronald D. Asmus in particular, carried the day in Washington. (Asmus later became a deputy assistant secretary of state and helped to implement the enlargement decision.) Numerous other think tanks joined the fray as newspapers and public forums on both sides of the Atlantic debated NATO enlargement. [www.rand.org](http://www.rand.org)

### Boosting the Consumer's Role in Health Care

Casual observers of the Galen Institute could be forgiven for believing it has a staff of dozens. In health-policy conferences around the United States and in a constant

stream of reports and commentaries, Galen argues that quality will be improved, costs lowered and access increased in health care if the responsibility of consumers and doctors for health-care decisions is increased. In fact, two people carry almost the entire load. Grace-Marie Turner, a former news reporter and political press secretary, founded Galen in 1995. Greg Scandlen hails from the insurance industry and other think tanks and industry associations. Together, they played a major role in putting the idea of health savings accounts (HSAs) on the policy map. Coupled with a high-deductible insurance policy, HSAs allow individuals, employees

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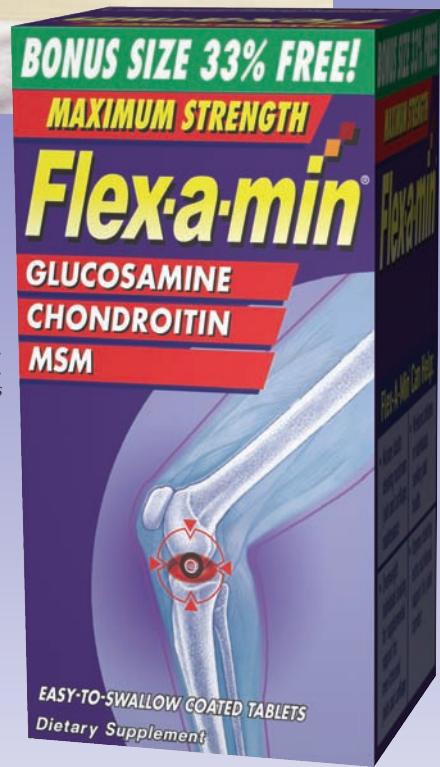
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in seeding new think tanks in post-communist Europe and supporting their scholars.

Some of the most heartening stories about the impact of think tanks now come from places where they did not exist 20 years ago. For example, Ivan Krastev, the 40-year-old chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies in Bulgaria, credits think tanks in his country and elsewhere in Eastern Europe with preserving core principles of the free market and democracy during the difficult years of transition away from one-party rule.

"In contrast to the intellectuals, who have pandered to popular public opinion and have never managed to overcome their hostility toward government, think tanks have made conscious efforts to influence new legislation and government decisions," Krastev writes. "In Central and Eastern Europe, ideas matter."

Looking ahead, think tanks will remain a fixture of public life in most places where "ideas matter." But these organizations are not without their difficulties and their fierce critics. If the rules of competition hold, for example, then the think-tank "market" could see some consolidation in the coming years. In the United States, the large number of conservative think tanks must compete not only with each other but also with political candidates, advocacy groups and charities for the same pool of dollars. Not all of them will survive.

Private corporations, meanwhile, are becoming more interest-driven in their support of public-policy research. Rather than endowing a range of groups as

a general contribution to the public good, companies tend to support think tanks with a track record of work that matches their own policy positions. Such funding decisions are hardly surprising, but they expose some think tanks to the criticism that their work is a form of intellectual prostitution.

"Money spent on think tanks helps to buy respect for the self-interested positions of private companies," writes David Callahan in *The Washington Monthly*. "In public policy debates, scholarly experts and data-filled reports can legitimize certain viewpoints far more effectively than lobbyists."

The vast majority of people who become passionate enough about public policy to study it and explain it for a living are not about to cook the intellectual books or sacrifice their integrity on behalf of a donor. Still, consumers of think-tank reports and recommendations are always wise to understand the financial backing of groups that supply them with information.

For public policy, in the end, the best defense against excessive influence of one group is intellectual competition of another group. In today's battle of ideas, if yours are losing, send in the tanks. 

*Gary L. Geipel is a speechwriter for a Fortune 500 corporation and a senior associate of the National Institute for Public Policy, a think tank focused on U.S. national security.*

*Article design: Holly K. Soria*

### Think Tanks (cont.)

or employers to put aside tax-free money for future health expenses. [www.galen.org](http://www.galen.org)

#### Providing a Free-Market Toolbox for State-Level Reformers

No better example of a free-market think tank living by free-market principles may exist than The Heartland Institute. Now 20 years old, Heartland is the product of a late-night brainstorming session among a group of libertarians in Chicago. They believed the time was right for a think tank that focused on states rather than on Washington. Joseph Bast was a part-time University of Chicago student working as a janitor when he was pressed into service as

Heartland's director. Within seven years, Heartland opened franchises in five other cities. Competition from homegrown think tanks in other states eventually weakened the franchise model, and Heartland re-tooled for the Internet age. Today, its "PolicyBot" database of more than 12,000 policy documents provides one-of-a-kind service to state legislators, harvesting the best think-tank studies from around the country. "We decided to treat the nation's 7,500 state legislators as customers to be served and satisfied, not opponents to be criticized or lectured to," writes Bast, still Heartland's president. [www.heartland.org](http://www.heartland.org)

#### Others:

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# THE MARINE *in Ed McMahon*

**E**d McMahon's career is tough to characterize, even for him. In his 1998 autobiography, "For Laughing Out Loud: My Life and Good Times," he put it this way: "I am one of the very fortunate people who grew up to do exactly what I spent my whole childhood dreaming of doing, even if no one is quite sure exactly what it is that I do."

He is, of course, known to millions of television viewers for more than 30 years of his famous nightly introductions of Johnny Carson on "The Tonight Show." "Heeeeeere's Johnny..." is one of the most recognized catchphrases in the history of the medium. In his "Tonight Show" role, McMahon was the affable straight man whose barrel-deep laughter thundered behind Carson's monologues; he was the primordial co-host, a dependable figure viewers could come to know and comfortably invite into their living rooms late at night. But that was just one role.

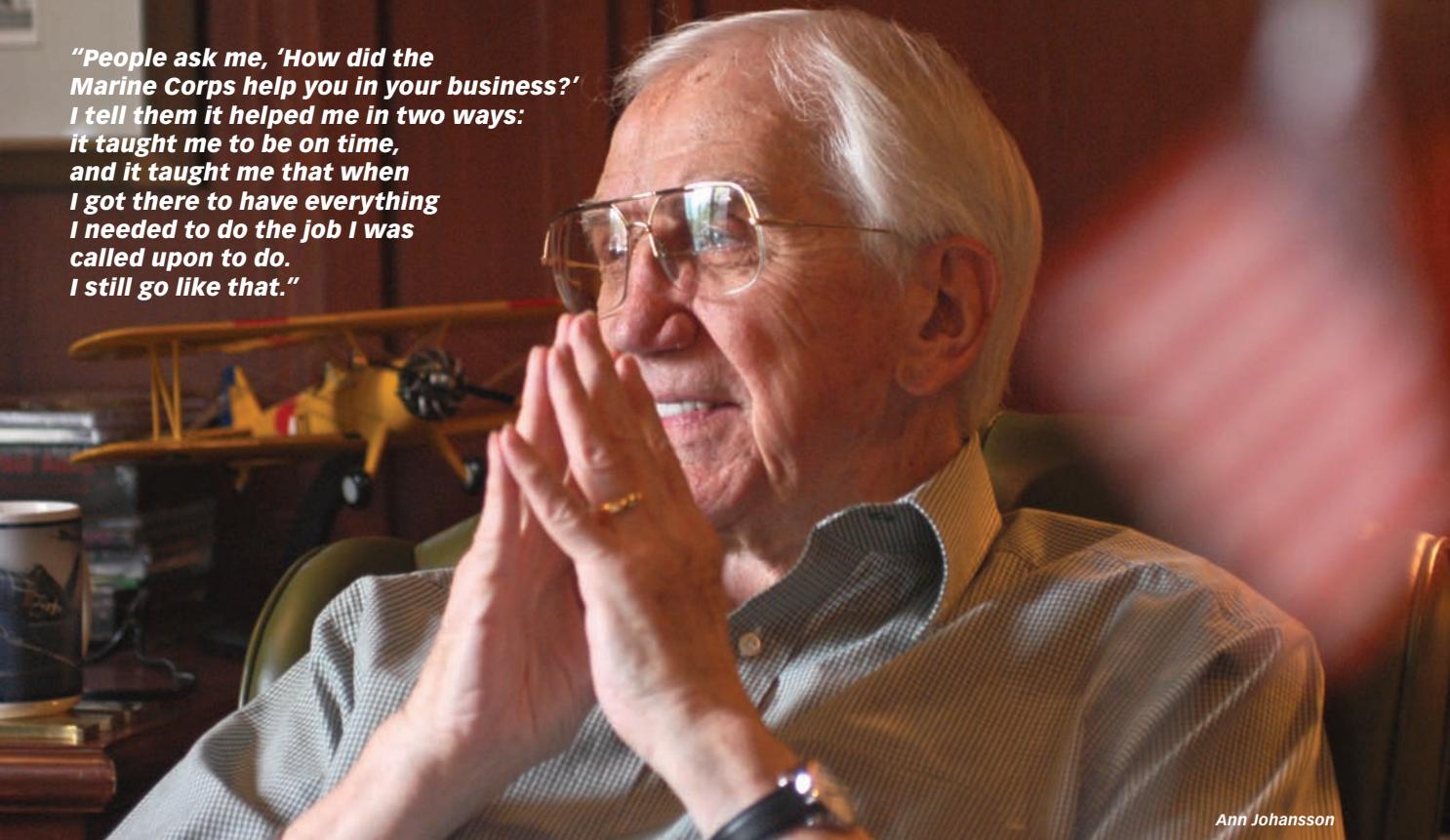
McMahon is one of the entertainment industry's best-known figures for reasons that transcend his seat on "The Tonight Show" set. In the 1980s and early 1990s, his own "Ed McMahon's Star Search" helped unearth such soon-to-be celebrities as Drew Carey, Ray Romano, Rosie O'Donnell, Britney Spears and Sinbad. He has co-hosted or emceed dozens of TV programs and specials. He's appeared in films and on Broadway. He's sold barrels of beer and mountains of dog food as a front man for Budweiser and Alpo. He has raised millions of dollars to fight muscular dystrophy, joining Jerry Lewis each year onstage for his famous Labor Day telethons. And what red-blooded American has not fantasized about seeing Ed McMahon pull up in the driveway with a \$10 million check from Publisher's Clearinghouse?

These days, at 81, he's as ubiquitous and energetic as ever, broadcasting a national weekly cable/Internet radio program, traveling the country, making appearances, giving speeches, hawking his own vodka brand and running the inherently unique business of being Ed McMahon.

Beyond all that is an under-known fact. Ed McMahon spent 23 years in the Marine Corps, an experience that built a framework for the rest of his life. A company commander as a teen-ager, he trained pilots to land on aircraft carriers during World War II. He flew 85 combat missions over the front lines in the Korean War, spotting enemy artillery. As his show-business career blossomed, he stayed in the Marine Reserves. He attributes a significant part of his success and resiliency to the values he learned in the service. They remain with him today.

Ed McMahon and his son Jeff, executive vice president of McMahon Communications, recently took time to talk with *The American Legion Magazine* at their office in Beverly Hills, Calif.

**"People ask me, 'How did the Marine Corps help you in your business?' I tell them it helped me in two ways: it taught me to be on time, and it taught me that when I got there to have everything I needed to do the job I was called upon to do. I still go like that."**



**The American Legion Magazine:**  
*What about the Marine Corps captivated you as a young man?*

**Ed McMahon:** I saw those posters – the guy looking up in the sky, and behind him, the wonderful Corsair. I saw the look on the guy's face. And I said, "I've got to fly the Corsair." That was the hot airplane in World War II.

**Q:** *What did it take to get there?*

**EM:** You had to become an aviation cadet, which was quite an enterprise. The physical was very tough. They spent one day on your eyes. You were going to be landing on a carrier – depth perception was everything.

From the get-go, I was tall, and I had a voice, so all of a sudden, I was in charge of 150 cadets heading for Texarkana, Texas. I had to get them on the train, and when the train stopped at a town on the way to Texas – a town I'd never been in before – I had to

make sure they all got back on the train and on their way to the base. That was the beginning of me becoming officer material.

I was able to convince them that I solely wanted to be a Marine, and I wanted to be a fighter pilot, but the idea of leadership followed me. I'm halfway through my training, and all of a sudden, our instructor is taken away. They take 24 instructors, put them in airplanes and fly them right out into the Pacific. They form a squadron right on our base. The commanding general comes around the next morning and looks at me. I'm the tallest guy on the ship, and he says, "What's your name?"

I says, "Lt. McMahon, sir."

He says, "You're the new instructor."

I went from student to instructor in about one minute. So I had to go that night to what we called "the library" – just a place where we had a lot of books – to read up.

The next day, I was the instructor. I took 32 cadets through training. In the end, I was a test pilot, and I taught carrier landings. I was 19.

**Q:** *At the time, aircraft carriers were a relatively new development, right?*

**EM:** It was unbelievable. You never forget the first time you take off from a carrier. You look over your shoulder, and you see what looks like a postage stamp floating in the water and you say, "Holy God, I've got to get back onto that." You come all the way around, and when you land, you're about two knots above stalling speed. You're just hanging at the propeller, and the guy gives you the cut. You cut the engine and drop in. Six tons. You never forget that first landing, either. It's quite a thing.

**Q:** *The Marine Corps isn't really known for affability training. How did you come by your people skills?*

**EM:** I guess I was born with that. My father was a raconteur – he was a great storyteller. They would come back from fishing trips, and I never saw any fish. I never saw any fishing tackle. I never saw a hook. But they went off on fishing trips. One of my father's best friends was named "Sport." They would come back and if something happened, someone would start to tell about it, and Sport would say, "No, no. Let Eddie tell it" – my father – "Eddie would tell it better." I picked that up from him.

In the Marine Corps, I was the bingo announcer at the officers club. Every time a show came into base, I was the emcee. I volunteered, and I could get people up who could sing and make the show better. I was constantly honing my craft even though I was doing what I was supposed to be doing in the Marine Corps.

**Q:** *How else did the Marine Corps affect you?*

**EM:** When you've trained as a Marine, you've got all that background, all that how-to-do-it-by-the-numbers. That's what's great about the Marines. People ask me, "How did the Marine Corps help you in your business?" I tell them it helped me in two ways: It taught me to be on time, and it taught me that when I got there to have everything I needed to do the job I was called upon to do. I still go like that.

**Q:** *After World War II, you had a successful gig selling vegetable slicers on the boardwalk in Atlantic City.*

**EM:** In 1946, I was making \$500 a week, cash. And when we went to the fairs – there was a minimum of six state fairs you went to – you made \$1,000 a week. People used to throw money at you. Now you see them all over television – the infomercials with the slicing and

the dicing. It helped my television career later on.

**Q:** *You broke into television early. What was it like then?*

**EM:** I started in 1949. The best way to describe it is the 11 o'clock news was on at 9 o'clock, and it was over at 9:15. And there was nothing else on the air. People used to stare at their television set and look at the test pattern, hoping something would come on. They figured something was going to come on, but nothing came on. That was television.

**Q:** *You were off to a successful start in your career when the Korean War came along. What happened?*

**EM:** They needed a lot of Marine pilots. Ted Williams (the Major League Baseball great) – his number was 13 numbers away from mine. I was on my first vacation in Florida. They used to sell newspapers around the pool. They had the New York and Philadelphia papers, the Boston paper. Guys would be hustling them. So, I am sitting there, having an orange juice, the kids are there, having a ball. I just swam the length of the pool, and I'm feeling pretty good at the Coronet Hotel. The paper guy comes around and I say, "Give me a *Philadelphia Inquirer*." Here's the headline: "Ted Williams called back to Marine Corps." I know my number is up. My career is just starting. New York is looking at me, offering me my own show, and here I am called back in the Marines. I knew if they got Ted Williams, they got me. I went back home. I knew that manila envelope would be waiting for me. In a few days, there it was.

They were very explicit. You will report for duty at the Willow Grove Naval Air Station – duty involving flying. They laid it right out. I was called back for 18 months. I had 13 television shows. I was the star, the producer, the writer of all these

television shows in Philadelphia. All of a sudden, I'm back in the Marine Corps.

**Q:** *And you flew combat missions?*

**EM:** Over the front lines. I went into artillery spotting. Not my favorite work, believe me – over the front line with people shooting at you. Behind you was the observer with binoculars saying, "Hold it ... hold it ... hold it ... I've got something... I've got a target." And all of a sudden, flak is coming up, and you've got to change course. Believe me, that was harrowing work.

**Q:** *But it was over in 18 months, and when you came home, your apartment was waiting for you.*

**EM:** The guy who owned the apartment building was a buddy of mine. It was worth your life to have an apartment in those days. You couldn't just get an apartment because you wanted to. He not only held an apartment for me, he had a better apartment, a duplex. I had a two-bedroom when I left. Now I had a three-bedroom. I am wondering who my next-door neighbor is. I go over to say hello, and it's Dick Clark. He's at the start of his career. He had been a disc jockey when I left for Korea. When I got back, he had just gotten "Bandstand" – it was just in Philadelphia – but it was a live show, as you know, people dancing in the afternoon. People started to notice him and soon after that it went on to ABC network. We're still very dear friends.

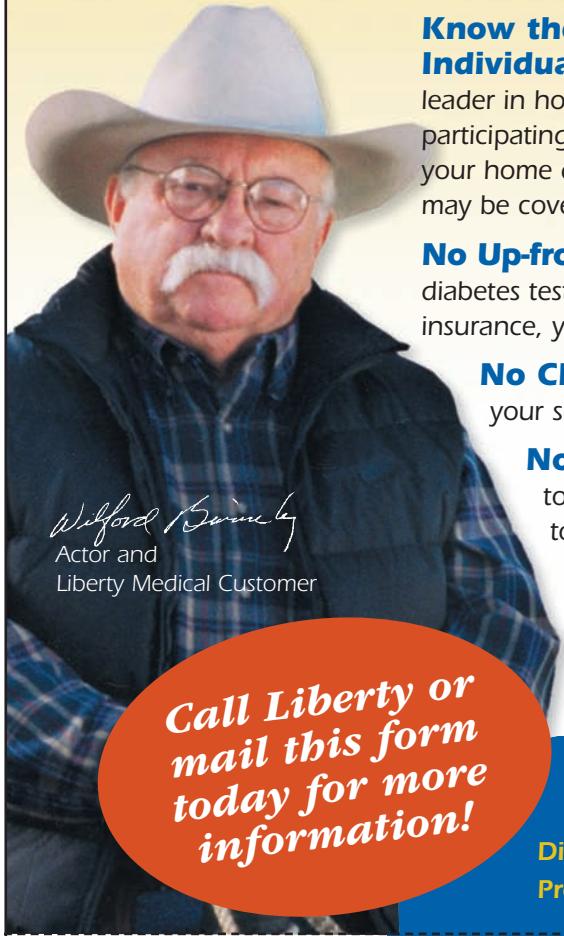
**Q:** *In the years that followed, as your career was taking off, how did you make time for your own family?*

**EM:** I include them in things. I take them to things.

**JM:** He was notorious for flying in red-eye for football games. He would be in L.A. doing "The Tonight Show" and he would pick an overnight flight into New York

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Surrounded by mementos and Marine Corps memorabilia, Ed McMahon puts in a rigorous work week from his office and broadcast studio. There, he works alongside son Jeff, right, who has come to appreciate his father's patriotism and military values. *Ann Johansson*

to watch my brother play football or myself playing football. He was always there at the right times, for the important times, and we used to marvel at that.

**EM:** He still remembers that.

**Q:** *Did your military experience feed into the way you parented?*

**EM:** I think my son would say there's a lot of colonel in me.

**JM:** I always imagined the tough colonel being a tough father. He wasn't. He was pretty forgiving and laid back. But the last 10 years and since we have been working together, that's all I see now. He'll leave messages on the phone: "Jeff, it's 9:06 a.m. I need to see you. Give me a call. We need to talk."

**EM:** You never lose it. Marines in general are extremely polite. It's "Yes, ma'am" and "Yes sir," and you never lose that. If you are a Marine, that's instilled in you, that politeness and respect. I am a stickler on time, and don't come to me without having done what

you were supposed to do. It's great for me to have Jeff working with me, because when I asked him to come work with me, he had a couple of other good offers. He'd been with the NFL for about eight years. He said, "How often do you get the chance to work with your dad?" He told me the other day he has learned more about me now, hearing my stories, as we travel. But he knows if the plane is leaving, to be on time, have all the right suits, the right luggage.

**Q:** *Have you actively imparted patriotic values in your kids?*

**EM:** Yeah, I think so. They see me stand at attention. They see me put my hand up and follow the flag wherever the flag goes. They have observed that. And the Marines stand for the Marine Hymn. That's the national anthem for the Marines. We stand up and respect that. And he has seen this camaraderie over the years. He has seen me with other Marines. He knows that strong bond.

**Q:** *Have those values sunk in?*

**JM:** My generation really went through a fairly long period where there wasn't very much war activity – no conscription, no draft or anything. Now, of course, all eyes are on us. How different it was for my generation, growing up around Vietnam and the antiwar feeling. So I had a kind of different viewpoint on the war. In the past few years, I have come around more than I ever have because of his involvement in the Marines and his patriotic feelings toward the U.S. I have changed my outlook on that. I have seen what he has gone through, and I have heard his experiences in World War II and Korea. You have to look up to these people.

**EM:** Everybody forgets that not only did you serve your country and risk your life, but you took, in my case for example, six years

away from your life, away from your business. For six years, I didn't pursue broadcasting. I was busy doing military work. Ted Williams – what kind of records would Ted Williams have left if he had six more years hitting baseballs? Could you imagine? No one would touch him. He was in the prime of his life. He gave four years in World War II, two years to Korea. Everybody did that. The guy who was going to be vice president of the bank went to Korea and didn't get that job. Somebody else got that job. That other guy became president, and the guy who went to Korea never got the chance again. That path was never opened up again. Out of all the guys in my squadron, every guy had a story like that. They were about to be the head of the hospital. They were about to be the head of the bank. The head of the insurance company. Whatever it was, they didn't get that opportunity when they got back. That door was closed.

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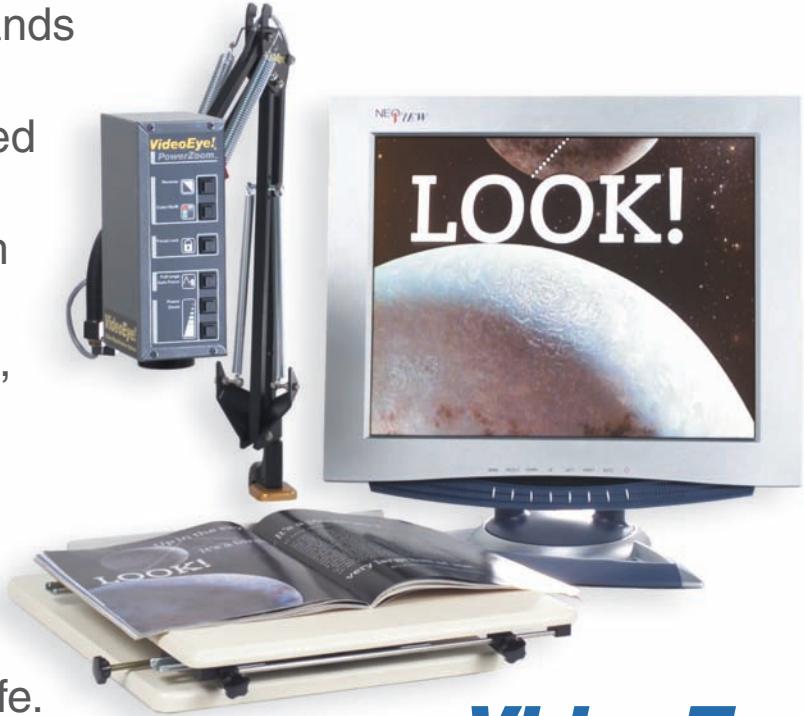
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**Q:** *And yet, you hear so little resentment from that generation.*

**EM:** It's hard to explain World War II to a young person like my son. Everybody was involved. My grandmother was saving bacon grease in a coffee can on the window sill because in munitions they used bacon grease for something. My dad was saving string. He had a ball of string. My uncle was a smoker. They used to wrap cigarettes in silver foil. He had a big giant ball, and he would take it down to the reclaiming center and turn it in – not for money, just turn it in. They made uniforms out of string. They made munitions out of bacon grease. If you were in the service, your sister was involved, your aunt, your uncle, your grandfather, your grandmother, your mother – they were all involved.

**Q:** *Do you see some of that same patriotism reappearing today?*

**EM:** I think this war has some of that now. There seems to be a tremendous spirit. When they do these polls, people still support the idea of the war. They still support what is going on there.

**Q:** *Do you feel connected to the troops fighting in Iraq?*

**EM:** I dread every morning, turning on cable news. I hope nobody was killed the last night. That's the first thing.

**Q:** *You have said before that a fellow veteran – Jimmy Stewart – was among your favorite guests on "The Tonight Show." Why?*

**EM:** He was a military man. He was a fellow pilot. He was a brigadier general. I also liked him because he wrote poetry. I write poetry. He had a great attitude. Very quiet, but to me, he was a real movie star. You would believe him as the senator. You would believe him as the cowboy. You would believe him as the heavy.

He played the romantic lead.

He came on the show one night, and he read a poem about his dog that died ... and by the time he gets to the end, Johnny is crying, the audience is crying, I'm crying, we're all bawling. A dog named Beau. Then he comes back about six weeks later, and he tells us about this lake. His wife, Gloria, wanted to find this lake in Africa. She would love to go to Africa and photograph the animals. So they go to Africa, and they can't find this lake. They're searching for this lake for three or four days. Finally, the way he tells it in his poem, he says, "We searched and searched for Lake Barengo, and when you finally see it, its surface is as smooth as glass, but getting to Lake Barengo is a genuine pain in the ..." In those days, nobody said ass on the air, unlike now when you can say anything. But they left that in. It was Jimmy Stewart saying it. The censors were not going to bleep Jimmy Stewart. He was great. He took his military career very seriously. He was a very good, respected pilot.

**Q:** *After "The Tonight Show," you spent 12 years as the host of "Star Search," which helped launch the careers of numerous stars. Do you maintain contact with them?*

**EM:** I do. It's great to keep in contact with them. It's interesting. I look at "American Idol," which is the current talent stage show, and I say to myself, if they wind up with anybody as big as Britney Spears or Christina Aguilera or Usher or Ray Romano or Dennis Miller, they will be lucky.

**Q:** *"The Tonight Show" and "Star Search" were such big hits, and you were so central in both, how have you kept from becoming typecast?*

**EM:** Whenever I needed to do something new, I embraced it. I always ran to it. We had to rebuild this house. We had mold. So we

had to tear the inside out and start over again. But I built a radio room in a closet. We broadcast out of there. I do my radio show every week in there ([www.crni.net](http://www.crni.net)). I have a hookup with one of my partners at Universal Studios in Florida. We broadcast material out of that room, and that room, the way we built it, is perfect. White sound. So, radio, my first love, I'm back to doing it. And I'm loving it. My son will tell you, when I am in that room working, I am the happiest I could possibly be.

**Q:** *What else do you do now?*

**EM:** I make personal appearances. I make speeches. I am connected with a group called Wheelchairs of the World, and our plan is to deliver 1 million wheelchairs to people who need them around the world. We always are looking at new television shows. I am coming out with a vodka – McMahon Perfect Beyond.

I've got a slot machine coming out. It's already out in the Indian casinos, but we're going to have one in the Vegas casinos as well. And we're always pitching shows. We've got a show with Aaron Spelling right now, based kind of on my life – I don't think I'll play the lead, but I might be the grandfather – called "CEO Dad," about a guy who runs his family like he is the CEO of a company. If the son wants to talk to him about his math homework, he has to make an appointment with his father. Not too far from the truth, huh? You see my desk. I put in a full day in here. So does Jeff. I wake up every morning and I just can't wait to get to work. I love this business. I'll never retire.

**JM:** He wakes up every morning, and he seizes the day. It's the Marine in him that comes out. ☺

*Interview: Jeff Stoffer*

*Article design: Holly K. Soria*

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Richard Daigle

# The Silver Lining

*Veterans help hold their community together in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan.*

BY RICHARD DAIGLE

**M**anny and Carin Sousa watched in amazement. In fewer than 30 minutes, the trickle of water on their den floor rose to chest level. The wrath of Hurricane Ivan was upon them.

The causeway over Pensacola Bay to Gulf Breeze had closed hours earlier. They had to live with the decision to ride out the storm in their wood-frame and brick home on Bay Street, only about 100 yards from shore. The carpet floated in the rising

floodwater. They stepped high to push it down and grabbed all the nearby items of value they could reach. They waded toward the stairway. "We didn't want to go up there because we were concerned about trees coming down on us," Manny said. "But we had no choice at that point."

The couple could hardly hear each other above Ivan's roar. They hunkered down in a walk-in closet upstairs. Extremely tired from hours of storm preparation and then from bracing themselves against the onslaught, they gave way to exhaustion. While Ivan

reached the peak of his powers, the Sousas somehow fell asleep on the closet floor. They awakened to the crashing of wind-flung objects slamming into their house.

The Sousas and the rest of Pensacola awoke the next day to a beautiful blue sky above and catastrophic devastation below. Thousands of residents had lost their homes or suffered severe damage. No neighborhood went untouched. Damage estimates exceeded \$1 billion. "The storm itself was just a few hours, but the recovery may take years," Manny said.

**Shelter from the Storm.** Pensacola's crisis last fall revealed the inner character of a community that banded together before, during and after the hurricane hit. Aid agencies and service organizations, including local American Legion Post 240, quickly went to work providing relief. Throughout the city of approximately 400,000 on the Florida panhandle, neighbors helped neighbors.

Legion District Commander Jimmy Lee Martin says his post makes a point of being a good neighbor not only to members but to all local residents in need. After Martin made an Internet appeal for supplies, several trucks began to arrive from other Legion posts throughout the region. Organizing the relief effort was a big task, but Martin found that a simple phone tree worked best to get the word out. Legion members called around to learn of other members or friends who were in need.

"I think this is wonderful," Pensacola resident Verda Remel said of Post 240's efforts, as she signed to receive a box of food and other supplies. "My husband and I are having a hard time getting everything cleaned up, but it's getting better. We're luckier than most."

On the Thursday evening after the storm, Post 240 opened its doors to anyone who could make it through debris-strewn roadways. "It was a place to come to relate stories and tell how they survived," Martin said. With no power and only a small generator to run a single fan, members found a sense of community, huddling in the dark. "People sitting around the bar with one fan blowing, doors open in the front and back, and loving life," Martin said.

Among those who lost a home, he said, was Julia Norris, a trailer-park owner who had donated the land on which Post 240 is situated. A large tree crushed her

house and then water rose six feet inside. "What the tree didn't get, the flood got," Martin explained. The post is helping Norris in every way possible, he added.

Martin said his biggest problem after the storm was communication with other posts and members. His and many other phone lines were down. He used his cell phone as much as possible to reach others.

**The Power of Light.** Power was out for Martin and most of the city. Gulf Power Co. spokesman John Hutchinson estimated 90 percent of Pensacola - 365,000 residents - had no power for days after Ivan. Hutchinson said approximately 5,400 power workers in 2,500 vehicles worked to restore power as quickly as possible. Crews came from across the nation, and one came from Quebec.

Getting the help was one thing, Hutchinson noted, but taking care of all the workers was "like maneuvering and feeding a small army. The logistics are staggering. Everybody needs a place to stay, something to eat, and a hot shower."

A variety of means was used to house and feed the workers, including large air-conditioned tents with bunks and portable restrooms and showers. Feeding usually involved caterers, but chores such as washing clothes had to be handled creatively, on a case-by-case basis. "You have to do all these things to get the lights back on," Hutchinson said. "These are the things people never see. When you turn the lights back on, you turn the hope back on."

"When you see the conditions people are living in with no power, a lot of them with heavy damage to the house, it will choke you up," said Jerry Armstrong of Georgia Power Co. "They come out, and they are very glad to see you." Armstrong restored power to a 90-year-old woman's rural home.

She was so glad to see the workers, and she and her son - in his 70s - wanted to help. "They wanted to help cut trees. It was funny, the age they were, and they wanted to jump in and help. Stuff like that is really inspirational."

Along with the army of power workers were thousands of relief volunteers from The American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, and a number of church and charity organizations. Saufley Field, a defunct air base, was used as the central point for relief trucks. Some 40 million pounds of ice, around 1 million gallons of water and 100 truckloads of MREs passed through Saufley on the way to help storm victims. In addition, close to 500 converted cargo trailers were on hand to serve as temporary housing for some 200 local Navy families.

**The Aftermath.** Among the most tragic of the 52 deaths attributed to Ivan came after the storm. Pace Assembly of God Church near Pensacola was fully deployed as a relief center, distributing food, ice and emergency supplies to storm victims only five days after Hurricane Ivan. That day, a two-star Army general visited the church. The general walked up to Pastor Glyn Lowery on the Tuesday after the storm and, without even saying hello, uttered words that would soon bring inner healing to the pastor.

"He shook hands with me, and he said, 'For all things work together for good for those who love the Lord and are called to His purpose,'" Lowery recalled. "Then he stuck his finger in my chest and he said, 'No matter what happens, preacher - remember that.'"

Only two days later, the church was rocked by the news that four faithful members died when a single-engine, four-seat airplane crashed shortly after takeoff. The four had planned the flight to take

video and still pictures to identify needy areas so the church could provide aid. The altar in the church sanctuary was immediately lined end to end with pictures and other mementos of crash victims Bill Walther, Traves Neff, Cristy King and Daniel Wesley.

Neff, 26, was the youngest pilot flying for Continental Airlines. He also was a personal pilot for professional boxer and Pensacola resident Roy Jones Jr. Walther left a high-paying job to join the church staff several years ago. Cristy King and Daniel Wesley, both 20, were raised in the church and due to be married in January. Cristy's wedding arrived just a few days before the crash. When news of the crash broke that morning, Lowery had to inform the families.

"All of their families were here at the church working. I had to tell them while they were here helping other people, cooking food and handing out ice. I had to tell my staff while they were here. We were tired and hot, been working 16-hour days, and we all had trees down at our houses, roofs that needed to be repaired. It was the most awful thing I think I've ever had to do."

Victims' families insisted relief efforts continue. And they did for several days after the tragedy.

Lowery was due to be on the ill-fated flight but gave his seat to Wesley.

"Down in my heart I've said, 'Lord, if it could have just been me on that plane at least she'd have a son,'" Lowery said, referring to Wesley's mother. "Then she said, 'But, Brother Lowery, then all these people would be without a shepherd. I can do without a son.' That's the kind of commitment these folks have."

Pace Assembly of God is one of many local churches that partnered with FEMA, the Red Cross, and other relief agencies to



Pensacola resident Verda Remel signs in to receive relief supplies from American Legion Post 240 in Pensacola. She said she was grateful for the help the post provided. *Richard Daigle*

distribute supplies, even though in many cases the churches themselves sustained damage.

A preliminary damage assessment by the Red Cross indicated that more than 6,100 residences in the Pensacola area were destroyed, and an additional 12,400 sustained major damage.

**A Medical Challenge.** Pensacola's Sacred Heart Hospital had some 4,000 people in the facility the night of the storm. Some hospital administrators spent seven straight nights at the hospital, after sleeping as little as two hours a night.

"You really know who your friends are when you come home from work and you get to sleep in a room with seven of them," quipped nurse Maureen Larsen, who spent the nights in a patient room with her colleagues.

One of the physicians attending to faulty toilets was Dr. Henry Foscue, an internist from a VA clinic in Pensacola, who took shelter at Sacred Heart.

Larsen said job titles were meaningless during the storm. "No one was too good to do anything. When you have a neurosurgeon going around flushing toilets, you've arrived."

Dr. John Harrell, chief medical officer at the clinic, said it took "a Herculean effort" to open the VA clinic the Monday following the storm. Portable generators provided power. Water had to be shipped in.

Ivan took a toll on many of the clinic's employees. Thirty from Sacred Heart and nine from the VA clinic lost their homes or suffered severe damage. An emergency assistance team of chaplains, psychologists and other professional counselors was summoned. A hotline was set up to check on employees. It all mattered.

"It's been a family feeling," said Chris Alexander, a spokesperson for the Gulf Coast VA Healthcare System. "Everybody has rallied around each other."

**A New Sense of Neighborliness.** Pensacola Mayor John Fogg, a Vietnam War veteran and former Blue Angel, said the tragedy united the community. "We had about a dozen people over here cooking hamburgers," he explained. "We did that three nights in a row. It was really a very healing experience. These were all neighbors that we know ... but not well. I think that happened across our community."

Fogg believes that despite the suffering, Pensacola will rebound.

"I'm extremely optimistic that at the end of the day – and the end of the day, maybe a year or two down the road – we are going to be a better community because of this." ¶

*Richard Daigle is a freelance writer living in Atlanta.*

*Article design: Doug Rollison*

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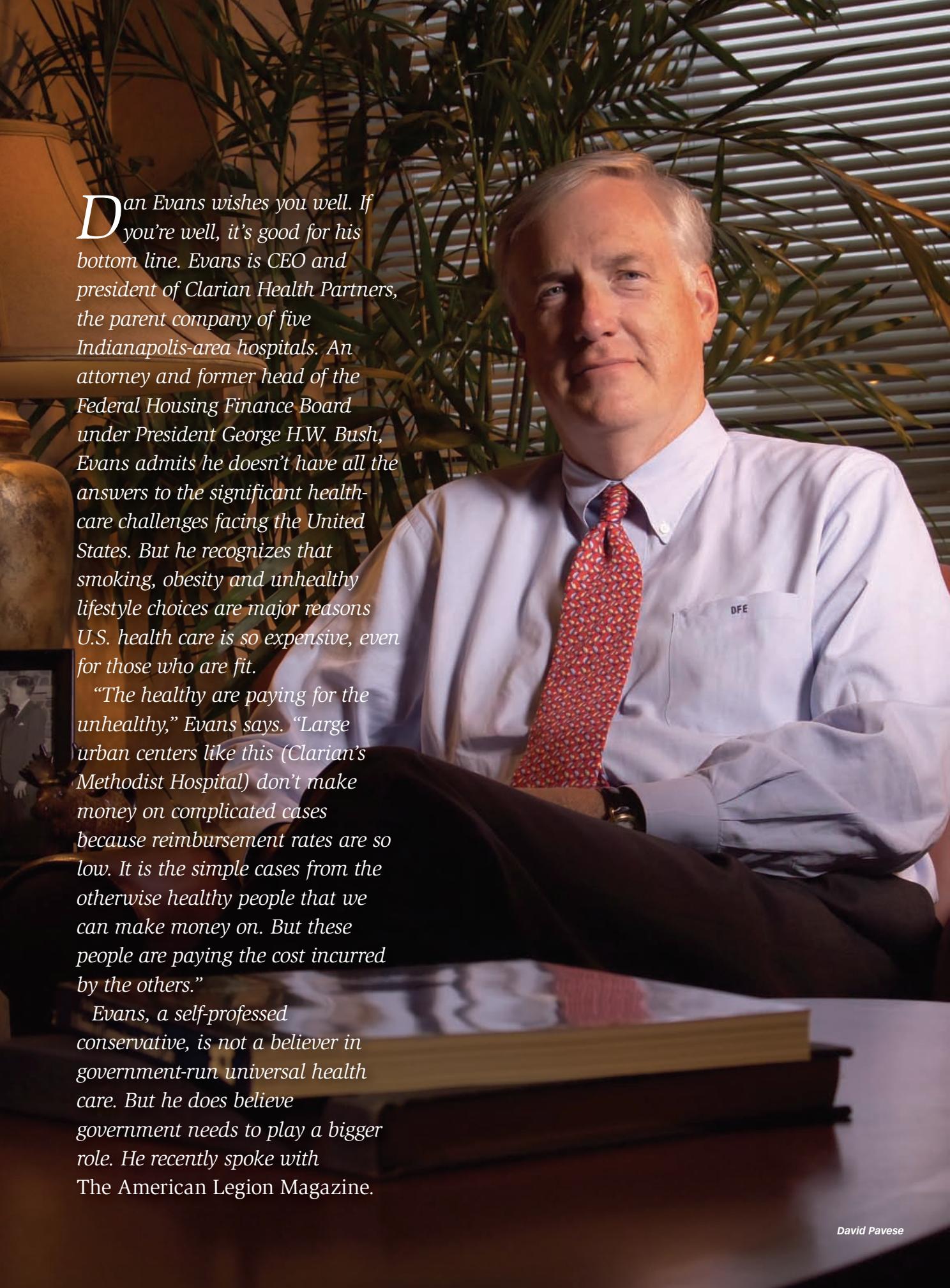
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*D*an Evans wishes you well. If you're well, it's good for his bottom line. Evans is CEO and president of Clarian Health Partners, the parent company of five Indianapolis-area hospitals. An attorney and former head of the Federal Housing Finance Board under President George H.W. Bush, Evans admits he doesn't have all the answers to the significant health-care challenges facing the United States. But he recognizes that smoking, obesity and unhealthy lifestyle choices are major reasons U.S. health care is so expensive, even for those who are fit.

"The healthy are paying for the unhealthy," Evans says. "Large urban centers like this (Clarian's Methodist Hospital) don't make money on complicated cases because reimbursement rates are so low. It is the simple cases from the otherwise healthy people that we can make money on. But these people are paying the cost incurred by the others."

Evans, a self-professed conservative, is not a believer in government-run universal health care. But he does believe government needs to play a bigger role. He recently spoke with The American Legion Magazine.



# The Urban Health Care Dilemma

*Clarian CEO Dan Evans stresses need for wellness programs.*

**Q:** *Many Americans cannot afford high-quality health insurance, and Medicare is reportedly going broke. How do you assess the situation?*

**A:** The expense to society as a Medicare recipient is an expense that didn't exist 30 years ago. Now for younger people, there are stents, coronary artery bypasses, grafts and other interventional procedures that simply didn't exist. One percent of the people use 40 percent of the health care, and 40 percent of the people use 5 percent or less of the total health care, in this country. Medicare only works when you have an appropriate ratio between those who work and are well and those working and retiring that are not well. In this country we don't (have that ratio). What happens is, as we age, there are more and more joining the category of high-utilizers.

The other option is to ration care, like Canada and Europe. This is not likely in this country, for good reason. In Canada, there simply aren't Level I Trauma Centers. If you get hit by a truck in Manitoba, the internist diagnoses you the following week to see which parts are paralyzed – not

likely that we would stand for this type of rationing in this country.

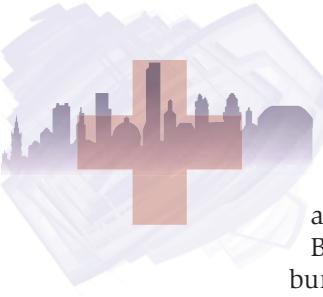
The other solution, which I favor, is a strong wellness program. How does a society improve its general health, drive down margin costs and improve lives? In a society based on choice, do you tax smokers and overweight people as individuals? I don't think so. If you have a genetic pre-disposition towards diabetes, are overweight for no particular reason and smoke, should you pay a higher health-insurance rate? It happens with life insurance but not in health insurance. The overweight, smoking and diabetic 60-year-old male will pay the same health-insurance premiums as the slender, 40-year-old non-smoking female that works alongside him.

**Q:** *But we all die sometime. Won't the healthy eventually catch up in care costs because of their longer life spans?*

**A:** A diabetic who has heart disease and is obese will cost a lot more in his productive life than a nondiabetic, because what happens to a diabetic, in particu-

lar, is retina detachment, heart disease and poor circulation. Blindness, amputation and heart attacks don't usually happen at 90; they happen at 50 and 55. If you can manage diabetes, we know we would dramatically lower health-care costs. I think diabetics account for 30 or 35 percent of health-care costs, so it is very out of whack. So do you want a diabetic paying a higher co-pay and therefore not getting health care and waiting for a heart attack, going blind or having an amputation, which society will pay for?

If they are poor, they get Medicaid. If they are older, they get Medicare. If they don't qualify, then this hospital pays for it because we don't turn anyone down. How do we pay for it? We shift the cost to The American Legion and other commercial payers. It's a tax that's being redistributed, not actuarially like life insurance. A person who is unhealthy at 50 will use more health care in their shorter lifespans, usually due to coronary disease, than the healthy 70- or 80-year-old.



For the self-employed, health-insurance premiums are astronomical. The question the government must answer is how to take care of catastrophic illness – premature babies, severe trauma. Does a person have to impoverish himself? Many senior-citizens groups have resisted any surcharge on catastrophic care. President Reagan tried it, but two years later, it was repealed.

**Q:** *What is the biggest challenge of the health-care industry?*

**A:** The dis-integration of the health system. We'll bring you here for trauma or critical care if you're in an accident, and we'll make no money off of it. We make money on the 80 percent of cases that aren't complicated and pay well, not the 20 percent that are complicated and use a lot of research.

As reimbursements have gone down from Medicare and Medicaid, doctors have opened niche hospitals, surgery centers, radiology centers and chemotherapy centers in standing facilities. They are taking the paying patients out of the urban centers and dis-integrating the social contract of younger people supporting the elderly.

Congress has to decide what public policy will be on dealing with niche for-profit hospitals. Specialists like orthopedic surgeons and eye doctors favor dis-integration because they can't get reimbursed enough in the big, integrated delivery system. You can't blame them. But if you get hit by a truck, you won't be helicoptered to the niche heart hospital.

My personal view is that niche hospitals – those that provide limited range of services to the majority of the patients – should pay a provider tax to support hospitals that are not niche

hospitals. The niche hospitals do no charity care, no indigent care or care at a substantial loss.

But the under-reimbursement of Medicare and Medicaid have driven perfectly reasonable people to invest in niche hospitals.

**Q:** *Do faith-based centers, like Methodist, bring an extra dimension to healing?*

**A:** I think so. We take a holistic approach. A Methodist bishop serves on our board as a vice president of values. I hear many stories about how our pastors have helped families. A pastor with a religious symbol – whether it's a cross or star of David – on a white coat creates a very powerful image in a hospital. People know a pastor.

This hospital also fosters the value of mutual respect. People will heal better in that type of environment. The mission of complex charity care is here. Understanding the cultural differences within the community is also important. The nurse – the ultimate caregiver – is networking with all these units. In most African-American and white families, the female makes the health-care decisions. In Hispanic families, it's often the male. Nurses go from room to room dealing with this diverse cultural community every hour of the day in our hospitals. I don't view affirmative action as a statistic. I view it as affirmatively dealing with the needs of the customer and having employees relate to that customer based on those needs. We need a more diverse workforce to deal with the needs of a 70-year-old person of color who may not always feel comfortable making life and death decisions with a young white health-care professional.

**Q:** *Should the government provide universal health care?*

**A:** That was tried once but failed. But there ought to be universal catastrophic care. If you're in a car wreck or have a premature baby, get that burden off your employer. We would have to be taxed accordingly.

We also should empower the consumer. They should know that Dr. Jones gets better results treating diabetes than Dr. Smith, so therefore by going to Dr. Jones the Evans family should pay the lower co-pay. I should be benefited in the pocket by going to a doctor who is better. You can determine which cars are better by doing research. Why not do it for doctors? The government could mandate to hospitals that this information be provided. The government requires labels on beef. This idea would have to be worked on because, generally speaking, the difference between the best and worst doctors and best and worst hospitals is not that much.

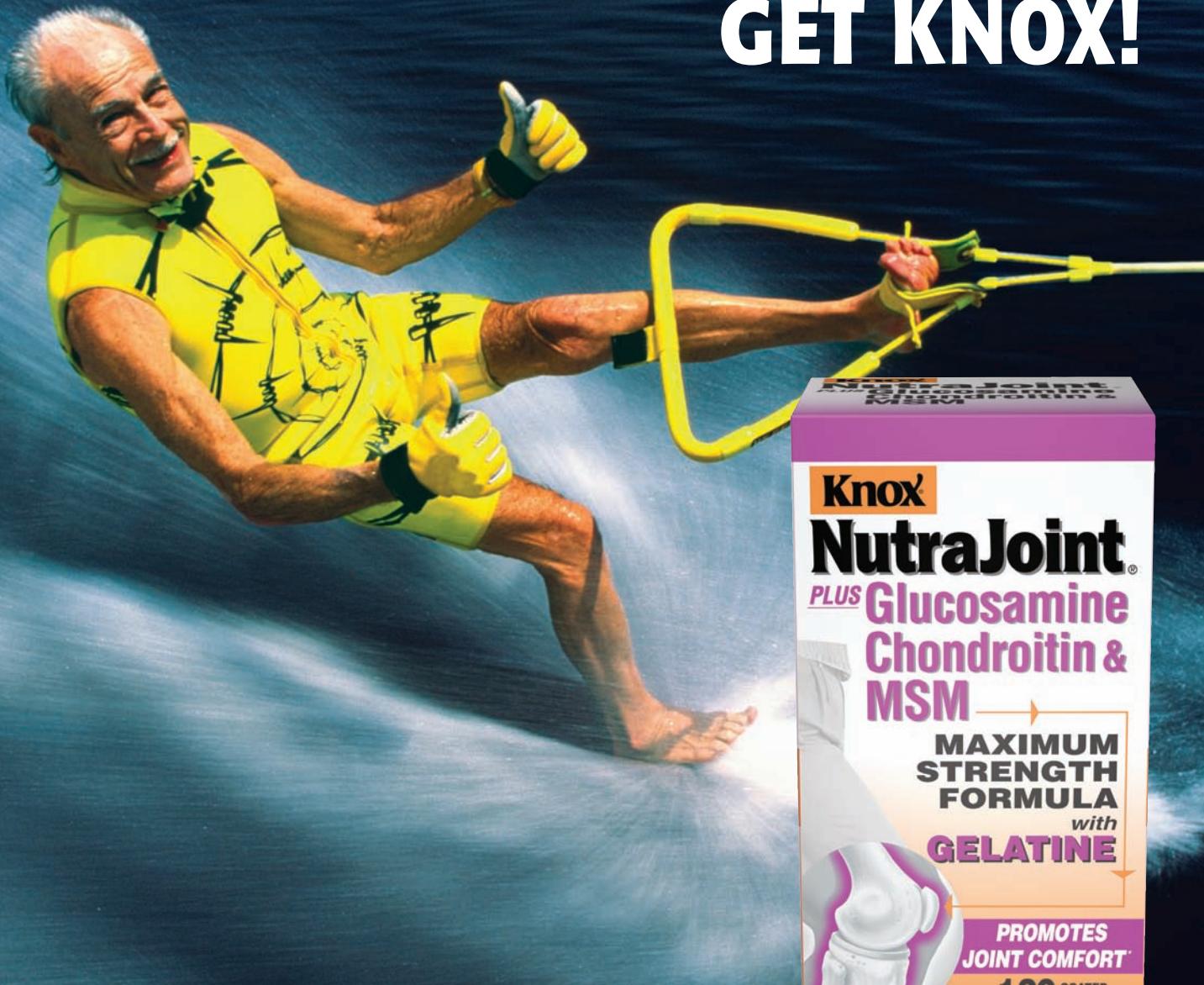
The last leg of the stool is we have got to have better policies with respect to health. That means ketchup is not a vegetable and food companies should not advertise in schools. If you advertise Coca-Cola in schools, what is a 12-year-old going to want?

It is also clear to me that society is breaking its covenant with the working poor. I believe I should be required to pay more for my pizza so the guy who serves me that pizza has affordable health insurance. It's a moral issue. But if you talk to your congressman about raising taxes, he will refuse. So, instead, they create an entitlement that has gone bankrupt. ¶

*Interview: John Raughter*

*Article design: King Doxsee*

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Leonhard Seppala and his heroic dog team beat the odds to save Nome in 1925.

*Alaska Stock*

# The Serum Run

*Alaska will never forget the bravery of war-trained dogs and mushers who saved a community 80 years ago.*

BY MIKE COPPOCK

**O**n Jan. 21, 1925, Dr. Curtis Welch of Nome, Alaska, looked in on two small Eskimo boys who were violently sick. After that, he was called to the home of a prominent Nome family whose son also was ill. Soon, all three boys were dead of diphtheria. It was an outbreak, and Nome did not have serum.

A frozen landscape isolated Nome from the rest of Alaska. No road connected it to any other place. No ships could sail through the sea ice. Open-cockpit airplanes of the time could not fly in the subzero temperatures. The nearest railhead was at Nenana, 674 miles away.

Nome had one chance for survival that horrifying winter 80 years ago: relay mushers and well-trained sled dogs. To save the community, the teams would need

to shatter the Nenana Trail record. The serum would last only six days in the extreme temperatures. No one had ever made the trip by sled team in fewer than nine days. But it was their only chance. Facing the challenge, the mushers turned to some of the greatest dogs that ever lived, some of which were used by American Expeditionary Forces on the Italian front during World War I.

**No Time to Lose.** A surgeon for the Alaska Railroad Hospital in Anchorage found 300,000 units of serum in a supply room. Within an hour, the serum was on its way to Nenana. A man known as "Wild Bill" Shannon – a prospector, freighter, trapper, brawler and former U.S. Army blacksmith – was the first musher. He left at 11 p.m., with the temperature hav-

ing fallen to 40 degrees below zero. The serum had to reach its destination in less than 144 hours. Shannon logged 52 miles by 5 a.m. when he arrived at Tolovana. Two of his dogs died from frozen lungs. Edgar Kallands took the serum the next 31 miles to Manley Hot Springs. Hot water had to be poured over his hands to free him from his sled.

Dan Green, Johnny Folger, Sam Joseph, Titus Nikoli, Dave Corning and Harry Pitka pushed on. Bill McCarty fought a blizzard for 28 miles before reaching Whiskey Creek. Edgar Nollner continued 24 miles. His brother, George, went the next 18 miles to Bishop Mountain. Charlie Evans raced his dogs through temperatures of minus-64 degrees until two dogs started limping. He stopped and put them in his sled, but they died before he reached Nulato. Tommy Patsy raced downriver another 36 miles into Kaltag.

The mayor of Nome knew they had to make better time. He asked Leonhard Seppala – a three-time winner of the All-Alaska Sweepstakes – to race 200 miles to the Yukon River, take the serum, and race back through an incoming blizzard. By that time, Seppala's own daughter, Seigrid, was in the hospital. Five more children had died, and 50 were in the hospital. Seppala left immediately.

Nome families lined Main Street as Alaska's greatest musher raced into a 400-mile journey through a blizzard. He would get no rest.

A volunteer named "Jackscrew" took the serum from Kaltag to the Bering Sea. A lantern was lit at a shelter hut so he could find it. From there, Victor Anagick moved it to Unalakleet 34 miles away.



Nome set up its own relay team so Seppala would have fresh runners as he returned. One of the relay men was Gunnar Kaasen. For his lead dog, he picked an all-black husky named Balto that Seppala had left behind.

Myles Gonangnan forced his team through six inches of fresh snow for 40 miles to Shaktoolik, handing the serum to Henry Ivanoff, whose dogs picked up the scent of a reindeer and entangled themselves. He was untangling his team when a lone figure appeared.

Seppala had already raced 43 miles. Taking the serum from Ivanoff, Seppala now had a 90-mile run to Golovin.

The trail ran along the frozen Norton Sound. Time had been lost. Seppala knew the serum would never make it if he took the trail. But what if he cut across the sea for the other shore? Gale-force winds were heaving the pack ice, breaking it up. Seppala weighed the danger of being taken out to sea against his need to gain hours.

The winds howled and blew Seppala sideways. The ice moaned. Halfway across, he was blinded by a white-out. Fissures opened up, exposing the sea beneath him. His heroic lead dog Togo kept going and reached shore by 8 p.m. By morning, the pack ice was gone – taken out to sea.

Seppala soon met Charlie Olson, part of Nome's relay. Nome was only 78 miles away. Fierce winds soon buried Olson's team in a snowdrift. He had to wrap his dogs in blankets and expose his bare hands. Olson watched his fingers turn white as he met Kaasen at Bluff. Frostbite set in.

Worse yet, Olson believed the serum was frozen. Kaasen shook

### The Serum Run

The Serum Run, initiated in 1997 by Col. Norman Vaughan, is a long-distance dog sled and snow machine expedition that annually commemorates the courageous effort that saved Nome in 1925.

[www.serumrun.org](http://www.serumrun.org)

### The Iditarod

Inspired by the serum run of 1925, the world-famous Iditarod – known as "The Last Great Race" – covers nearly 1,100 miles from Anchorage to Nome and takes 10 to 17 days. This year's Iditarod is March 5.

[www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com)

the cylinder. Nothing. Kaasen hurried on for Port Safety 32 miles away. The full force of the storm had arrived. The mushers were ordered to stand down, but Kaasen had already left.

Nearing Port Safety, the wind blew Kaasen's team into a snow bank. Righting the sled, he discovered the cylinder was gone. He frantically dug into the snow until he found the metal container, tied it back on the sled and raced for the Port Safety Roadhouse.

The roadhouse was dark when Kaasen pulled up. Kaasen's dogs, especially Balto, seemed able to continue. They pressed on for Nome. Windburn soon caused Kaasen's eyes to swell shut. He had to trust Balto. The dog led the team and its blinded musher into Nome at 5:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 2.

The relay teams delivered the serum in 132 hours. In that time, six children and four dogs had died. Dr. Welch and his nurses had cared for 64 patients who would have died without the medicine.

**The Run Remembered.** Annually since 1997, the route of the serum

run has been retraced to raise awareness about the health-care needs of Alaska's interior villages.

The effort was begun by another Alaska legend, retired Air Force Col. Norman Vaughan. Vaughan taught himself to mush dogs as a teen-ager; he was Adm. Richard Byrd's dog wrangler on his first expedition to Antarctica and was the first American to drive dogs at the South Pole.

During World War II, Vaughan led search-and-rescue efforts on the Greenland ice cap using dog teams and saved the lives of 24 servicemen. He later mushed supplies through blizzards during the Battle of the Bulge.

Vaughan competed in 13 Iditarod races after the age of 70 – a 1,049-mile race through some of Alaska's most rugged terrain, from Anchorage to Nome. The Iditarod was started in 1967 inspired by those who had saved Nome in 1925. Leonhard Seppala's ashes were ceremonially scattered along the trail for the inaugural race.

At age 91, in 1997, using a combination of snow machines and dogs, Vaughan covered 776 miles through bitter cold, closely following the serum run route, visiting villages in the Alaska interior and speaking on the importance of inoculations for native children. At age 98, the retired colonel continues to speak out on rural health care and mushing – two subjects of life-and-death importance for Nome in the winter of 1925. ¶

*Mike Coppock is a freelance writer and part-time Alaskan living in Enid, Okla.*

*Article design: Holly K. Soria*

*Alaska Stock*





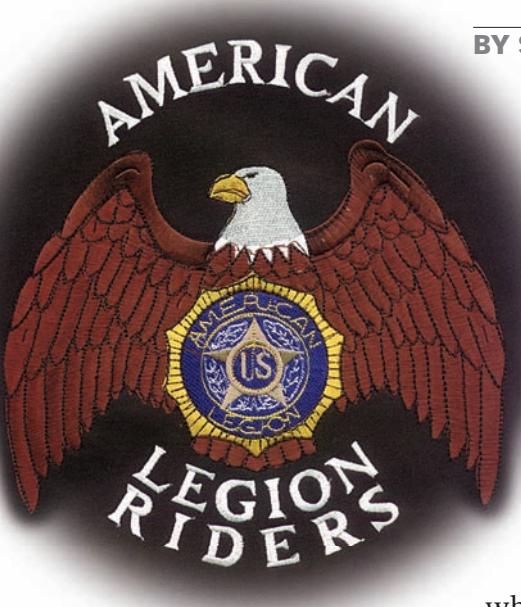
# Full Throttle

*Legion Riders see limitless growth  
a year after chapter numbers double.*

BY STEVE BROOKS

It's true that some of them still wear their hair and beards a bit long. They adorn themselves in a little more leather than others. You'll see an occasional earring.

These features – and the distinctive low rumble of the artistically designed, 1,340cc-powered motorcycles on which they ride – is about all that separates the approximately 7,500 American Legion Riders from other members of the world's largest veterans organization. The motorcycle merely is a means of expression for a group of men and women whose primary mission is promoting Legion programs.





American Legion  
Riders prepare to  
participate in the 2004  
National Convention  
parade in Nashville,  
Tenn. Approximately  
7,500 Legionnaires are  
members of Riders.

*Tom Strattman*

"What we've done is broken down some major barriers," said "Polka Bill" Kaledas, past commander of Post 396 in Garden City, Mich., and one of the founders of Legion Riders. "It's a wall we've been beating on for a long time. We've not broken it down completely, but we've put a hell of a dent in it. We try to instill in people that we are Legionnaires first and Legion Riders second."

Membership is open to the Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion. The organization's stated purpose is:

- To participate in parades and other ceremonies in keeping with the aims and purposes of The American Legion;
- To promote motorcycle safety programs and to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interests; and
- To use its association to promote and support American Legion programs.

"Legion Riders wanted to help and be a part of an organization, but they didn't want to join a motorcycle club," Kaledas said.

"That is something that we are not. We are part of a service organization."

**The Beginning.** In 1993, during Kaledas' term as post commander, he discussed with junior vice commander Chuck Dare an idea to form a motorcycle association that would operate within The American Legion. After seeking advice at the department level, the pair formed the nation's first Legion Riders chapter. The chapter then

quickly grew to 19 members. The chapter began sponsoring bingo at a local VA hospital, raising money for charities, and participating in ceremonies and parades.

Three years later, Dare and his wife, Bernie, moved to Texas, where they began promoting Legion Riders. Articles about the Riders appeared in *The American Legion Magazine* and *The Dispatch*, and the number of chapters has steadily grown to 170 today, doubling that of a year ago. Legion Rider Keith "Dawg" Jones says the growth is likely to continue. "We started as a grassroots group, but we're turning the corner," said Jones, a member of Post 124 in Ferdinand, Ind. "We're going to keep growing. I started our chapter in Ferdinand in January 2001. Since that time, we've had 14 chapters go up in Indiana alone. I'm in awe of how much all of this has grown in the past three years."

"It started with just two of us,



Legion Riders founder Bill Kaledas addresses other Riders during the group's National Romp last August in Fond du Lac, Wis. *Steve Brooks*



but it kind of snowballed from there," Kaledas said. "A lot of it was word of mouth. People saw our patch and inquired about it."

Kaledas' first wife, Bonnie, designed the patch. She passed away six years ago from cancer. "It's almost a tribute to her," Kaledas said. "When I see all these patches, I can't help but think about her."

**Changing the Stereotype.** In 1953, the movie "The Wild One" brought

the world of outlaw motorcycle gangs to the big screen. In the film, Marlon Brando stars as the leader of a biker gang that invades and takes over a small town. The hit movie led to a national surge in the sale of motorcycles and black leather jackets. The movie, however, is blamed for attaching a stigma to motorcycle riders, one that Jones said stuck for years.

"People have looked at bikers a certain way for years," he said.

"It's a perceived attitude that bikers are wild. But the average Harley rider today has class. He's not some guy in a greasy pair of jeans. He's a doctor, a lawyer or an accountant. Harleys have become a status symbol, and that's helped things along for us."

The work the Riders do has helped change the way they're viewed. Chapters are active in raising money for community charities benefiting veterans and non-veterans alike. The Laurens, N.Y., Post 1688 chapter conducted a motorcycle poker run last Sept. 11 and raised \$2,033 for the American Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Riders in Fort Wayne, Ind., raised \$1,500 to cover living expenses for veterans staying at a local VA hospital. Legion Riders participate in memorial ceremonies and commu-



Several members of the Riders headed to Washington last May to take part in the Rolling Thunder "Ride for Freedom."



Legionnaires from across the Midwest and as far away as Texas and New York attended the Riders' National Romp in Fond du Lac, Wisc. The Riders doubled their chapters in 2004. **Steve Brooks**

the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Immediate Past Department of Wisconsin Commander Dave Gough is a

member of Bates-O'Brien-Howe-Wiegel Post 214's Riders chapter in Darlington, Wis. At last year's Legion Riders National

Romp in Fond du Lac, Wis., Gough told fellow Legion Riders that the public is starting to notice the amount of good the group has done.

"One of the signs that things are changing for The American Legion Riders is that as Riders do more good things, they're starting to be asked to attend more events," Gough said. "We are on

the verge of discovering our unlimited potential."

Kaledas agrees the Riders have a future full of possibilities. Still, he remains a bit awestruck by all the growth in the past decade.

"This is all beyond my wildest imagination. I never dreamed when I sat down at that first post meeting that we'd now be anywhere near this large," Kaledas said. "We have active people willing to work and make a difference. People want to be a part of that." 

*Steve Brooks is a contributing editor of The American Legion Magazine.*

*Article design: Doug Rollison*



Members of the Riders take a break with friends and family before the Rolling Thunder "Ride for Freedom" in Washington during Memorial Day weekend. **John Raughter**

## Black, white or gray?

The war in Iraq has drawn heavy criticism around the world. The Vatican condemned it. Kofi Annan declared it "illegal" under international law. And the campaign of John Kerry dismissed it as "the wrong war at the wrong time." This last source of criticism is what makes Michael O'Hanlon's recent piece in *The Washington Times* so interesting.

O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a center-left think tank based in Washington, also helped draft foreign-policy speeches for the Kerry campaign. Yet O'Hanlon countered Annan's criticisms masterfully by detailing the many ways the war was justified



under international law. Echoing the Bush administration line, he noted that Iraq was in violation of 17 U.N. resolutions, including the prewar resolution known as 1441. Although O'Hanlon stated that the postwar situation is not rosy, he questioned Annan for impugning "the use of force to overthrow a brutal dictator who had systematically and dangerously defied official demands made of him by the entire international community."

While conceding that the war may have been launched in a gray area, O'Hanlon concluded that "being in a gray area is not the same as being illegal."

- A.W.D.

## Another failure

With elections scheduled for this month, Iraqi officials are raising concerns about inadequate assistance from the United Nations to ensure integrity of the polls.

"We definitely need a larger U.N. presence," Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari told *The New York Times*, "at least to establish confidence in the electoral process." He said the United Nations has sent only 35 workers to assist in the Iraqi electoral process – a paltry amount for a country of some 25 million people where 30,000 polling places and 100,000 Iraqi citizens are needed to carry out nationwide elections. In fact, only five members of the U.N. team even specialize in electoral issues.

In Afghanistan, by contrast, the United Nations deployed a vast bureaucracy to assist in Afghanistan's political transformation from medieval Taliban rule to pluralist democracy. Set up in late 2002, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan has hundreds of staff members. The United Nations has nearly 30 different offices in Afghanistan, either representing particular U.N. sub-agencies or serving particular population centers. Ahead of the elections last autumn, the United Nations assisted 1,200 workers in registering Afghan refugees in neighboring Iran and Pakistan.

Likewise, when tiny East Timor



Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari met with his counterparts from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Kuwait, Iran, Syria and Jordan last year to discuss attempts to stabilize Iraq. **AP**

– with a population of 1 million and a landmass of just 15,000 square kilometers – held elections in 1999, the United Nations sent 300 officials to monitor and assist the process.

The main impediment in Iraq, according to the United Nations, is lack of contributions to an international force to protect the U.N. election team. Secretary General Kofi Annan wants a 4,000-member force. Never mind that U.N. election monitoring teams have been deployed to other hotspots without a security force of that size. Indeed, the real cause of the United Nations' less-than-half-

hearted interest in Iraq's democratic transition is the U.N. bureaucracy's opposition to the war. As embedded reporter Karl Zinsmeister observed upon his return from postwar Iraq, "politics are keeping the United Nations out of Iraq," adding that the United Nations "is virtually AWOL because they say it's a dangerous place. But Liberia is a dangerous place. Rwanda is a dangerous place. Yet the U.N. is in those places."

But what could be more fitting? Iraq was liberated in spite of the United Nations, and it will be democratized in spite of it.

- Alan W. Dowd

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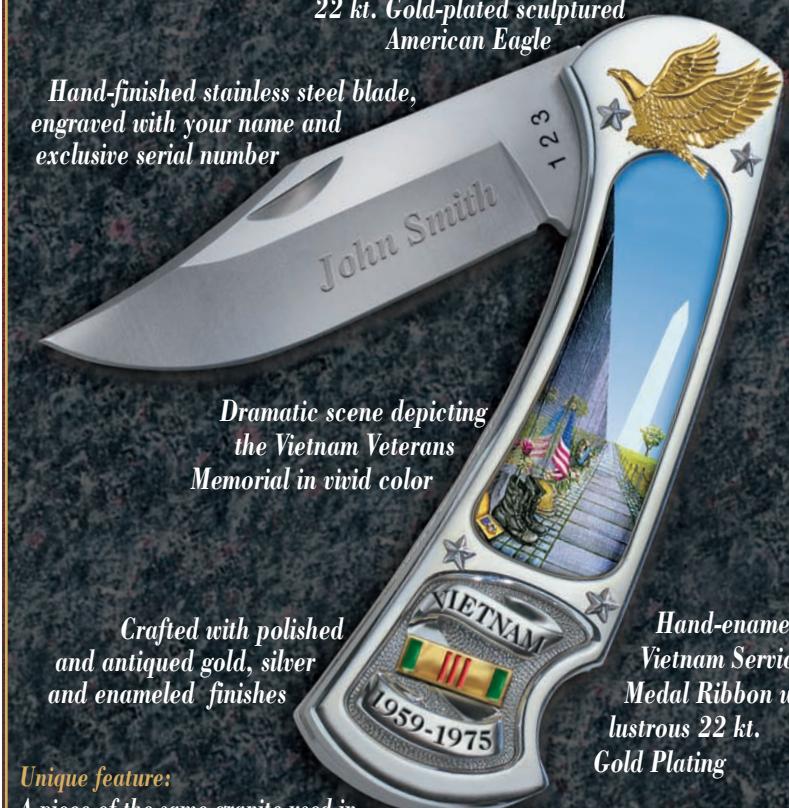
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# The genetic roots of alcoholism

*Alcohol abuse annually costs the United States \$185 billion and is linked to 100,000 preventable deaths.*

**BY DR. STEPHAN D. FIHN**

Alcohol addiction and abuse strike close to home for many of us. More than half of Americans say they have at least one close relative struggling with these issues. Each year, the problem costs our nation nearly \$185 billion and is linked to more than 100,000 preventable deaths.

Alcoholism addiction, or alcoholism, has four hallmarks:

■ **Cravings.** Addicts experience a strong need to drink.

■ **Loss of control.** Addicts often feel unable to control how much they drink.

■ **Physical dependence.** Withdrawal symptoms such as sweating, shakiness or anxiety occur when alcohol use stops.

■ **Tolerance.** Alcoholics develop a tolerance for the effects of alcohol and need to drink ever-increasing amounts to feel the same "pleasure."

Someone can misuse alcohol – drink too often, too much, or at inappropriate times – without being addicted. The results either way are often the same: serious medical problems, car crashes, problems at work and failed relationships.

Over time, excess alcohol intake can lead to many health problems, including various cancers. Other possible outcomes include cirrhosis of the liver, immune-system disorders and brain damage. Pregnant women who drink risk fetal harm.

Some studies show that light or even moderate drinkers have a lower risk of heart problems than those who never drink. Red wine, in particular, has certain benefits when consumed in moderation. But this is a slippery slope. Heavy drinking can boost the risk of heart attack, stroke and high blood pressure, and alcohol can contribute to obesity and diabetes. If you



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don't drink, don't start in order to help your heart. Eating right, exercising and learning to cope with stress are far better strategies.

If you drink, don't exceed the recommended limits: no more than an average of two drinks daily for men or one drink daily for women, with a drink defined as 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine or 1.5 ounces of hard liquor.

**Who's At Risk?** More men than women are affected, although women are more susceptible to the harmful effects of alcohol. Older adults, too, have a lower tolerance for alcohol's effects and may be more likely to fall or get in car accidents when under the influence. They also are more likely to mix alcohol with medications, with potentially deadly results.

Genetics have much to do with vulnerability to alcoholism. According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, up to 60 percent of a person's risk for alcoholism is genetically determined. Children of alcoholics are four times more likely than the general population to develop alcohol problems.

VA investigators are involved in a major study funded by the NIAAA to identify the genes that help determine how we respond to alcohol. Researchers are conducting clinical exams – including DNA, blood and brain-wave testing – on hundreds of families with multiple generations of alcoholism.

They are comparing these families to control families with no history of alcoholism. Scientists have found hotspots for alcoholism risk on five chromosomes, and a protective area on another.

Scientists also have discovered genetic variations affecting how a person will respond to naltrexone, a drug used to treat alcoholism. Findings such as these are ushering in an era when doctors will be able to tailor treatments based on a patient's genetic profile.

**Treatment Strategies.** Naltrexone, developed in large part due to the efforts of VA researchers in Philadelphia in the 1980s, has become an important part of treatment for some alcoholics. The drug acts on a receptor in the brain to decrease the pleasure associated with alcohol. Before naltrexone was approved in 1995, the only other treatment for alcoholism was disulfiram, introduced shortly after World War II. This drug causes nausea in patients who imbibe.

These medications are usually used together with individual or group counseling. Alcoholics Anonymous or other 12-step programs can be a valuable adjunct to medical and psychological treatment.

According to VA's National Center for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, those with PTSD are at special risk for alcohol problems. Up to 80 percent of Vietnam War veterans seeking PTSD treatment also have alcohol-use disorders.

VA is proud of its contributions to our nation's fight against alcohol addiction and abuse, and it continues to seek innovative solutions on behalf of veterans.

*Dr. Stephan D. Fihn is acting chief research and development officer at the Veterans Health Administration.*

*Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.*

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# Resolution calls for full funding of tobacco-related illness compensation

Since 1919, The American Legion has fought to ensure disabled veterans receive the medical care and benefits they earned and deserve. This includes certain diseases that can develop years after service that are related to nicotine addiction and smoking.

For years, the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs promoted, condoned, fostered and encouraged the use of tobacco products by U.S. servicemembers. For that reason, The American Legion believes the U.S. government should pay for treating those veterans.

Resolution No. 1, passed by the Legion's National Executive Committee during the 2004 Fall Meetings in Indianapolis on Oct. 13-14, supports legislation to restore entitlement to service connection for disability or death related to veterans' use of tobacco products during the period of active military service from June 9, 1998, and supports congressional appropriation of sufficient funds to pay compensation benefits for tobacco-related illness claims.

The resolution was one of 32 passed by the NEC during the Fall Meetings. Following are other key resolutions that also passed. Subject titles are in italics.

## Americanism

**27** Calls for Congress to *Prohibit the Use of Foreign-Issued Forms of Identification.*

**30** Amends *American Legion Eagle Scout* of the Year eligibility requirements to include members of Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout Teams or Venturing Crews sponsored by Sons of The American Legion squadrons.

**33** One-year agreement with Scholarship Resource Network Inc. for use of its resources in the preparation of *"Need a Lift?"*

## Economics

**21** Reaffirms *Support of the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development.*

**22** Calls for developing national awards for individuals, committees or chairmen at posts or departments to recognize their outstanding service to *Homeless Veterans.*

**23** Calls for VA funding fees on *Home Loans* to be reduced or eliminated for all veterans, regardless of whether they are active duty, reservists, National Guardsmen or multi-users of the program.

**24** *Supports Preference for Veteran-Owned Businesses.*

**25** Supports allocating funds supporting the growth of the joint Small Business Administration and National Veterans Business Development Corporation's Veterans Entrepreneurial Training program initiative to increase *Small Business Opportunities* for veterans.

## National Security

**8** Reaffirms that Congress mandate and appropriately fund the Department of Defense and military services so as to provide *Military Honors* upon request at veterans' funerals in coordination with veterans service organizations at local levels; urges DoD to implement equitable and expedient reimbursement for VSO members who participate in military funeral honors; and urges Legion posts and departments to continue participat-

ing in the rendering of funeral honors to veterans.

## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

**2** Clarifies *"Service in the Republic of Vietnam" for the Purpose of Agent Orange Presumption.*

**3** Urges VA to improve access to quality primary and specialty *Health-Care* services for veterans living in *Rural* and highly rural areas.

**4** Supports legislation to raise the maximum total level coverage of the Service-members' Group Life Insurance program from \$250,000 to \$350,000 without increasing premium payments for *Servicemembers.*

**5** Seeks legislation eliminating the Dec. 16, 2004, expiration date for *Surviving Spouses Who*

*Remarried after the Age of 57 to Apply for Reinstatement of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.*

**6** Urges Congress to include *Operations in Lebanon (1958), Grenada (1983) and Panama (1989-1990) as Recognized Periods of War for VA Pension Purposes.*

**7** Urges VA to *Specify the Actual Amount in the Notice of Award Letter When Awarding Special Monthly Compensation or Pension and Additional Allowance for Dependents.*

**11** Enters the Legion into a contract, agreement or memorandum of understanding with the *National Veterans Legal Services Program* to provide the Legion court representation on cases of precedential matters, at least two national training sessions for Legion department service officers and others, participation in The American Legion/NVLSP Law Internship Program, updates and revisions of printed matter, appropriate copies of advocacy journals, as well as research services and other services.

**29** Urges VA to *Cease Allowing Non-Surgeons to Perform Invasive Eye Surgery* on veterans.

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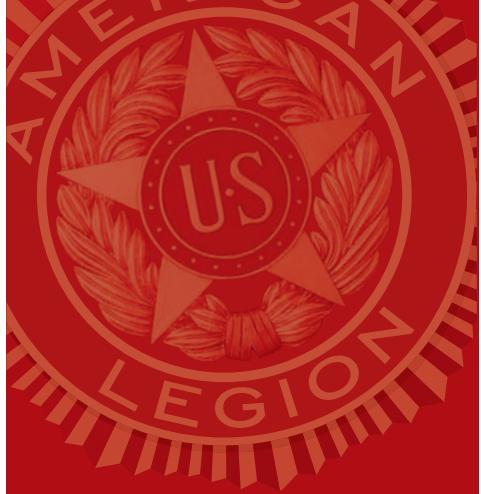
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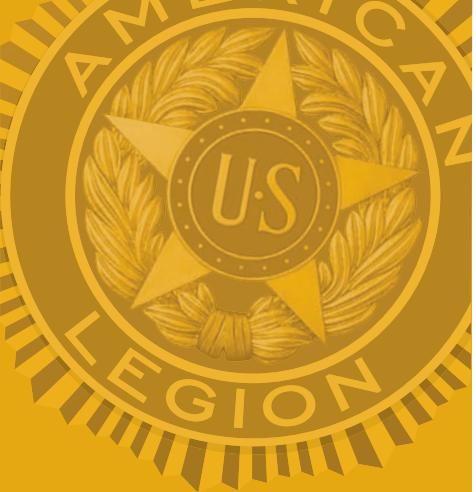
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## Department Commanders 2004-2005

# Legion grants help thousands

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, now in its 50th year, recently awarded \$585,275 to 19 nonprofit organizations. These grants help the organizations disseminate information to the public and target groups about programs. Grants awarded for 2005 are:

**American Liver Foundation (New York)** – Awarded \$40,500 to produce and distribute educational materials to improve early identification of newborns at risk of pediatric liver disease.

**Children's Hospital Foundation (Omaha, Neb.)** – Awarded \$14,200 to disseminate hearing-impairment training programs.

**Children's Organ Transplant Association (Bloomington, Ind.)** – Awarded \$40,000 for program awareness and to continue nationwide donor registration.

**Christian Community Inc. (Fort Wayne, Ind.)** – Awarded \$30,000 to create pamphlets designed to help parents talk with school-age children about health issues.

**Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation Inc. (Avon, Conn.)** – Awarded \$24,750 to disseminate information about current research discoveries.

**Family Forward (Austin, Texas)** – Awarded \$30,000 to produce and distribute domestic-violence curriculum to professionals to improve the parenting skills of battered women.

**The Foundation Fighting Blindness (Owings Mills, Md.)** – Awarded \$20,000 to focus on print materials and advancing its "Kids Corner" Web site.

**Huntington's Disease Society of America (New York)** – Awarded \$23,000 to create a two-part series on juvenile-onset HD in its national publication, *The Marker*.



## The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

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## Who can apply?

Groups that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children may apply for funding from The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Grant-making focuses on knowledge dissemination. The average award is \$22,000.

**Immune Deficiency Foundation (Towson, Md.)** – Awarded \$42,500 to fund the development of a new booklet to improve the diagnosis and treatment of primary immune-deficiency diseases.

**International Rett Syndrome Association (Clinton, Md.)** – Awarded \$34,000 for its Rett Syndrome awareness campaign.

**Kids in Danger (Chicago)** – Awarded \$15,000 to fund "Safe from the Start" to educate parents and caregivers about product hazards.

**KidsPeace, Inc. (Orefield, Pa.)** – Awarded \$60,000 to publish and disseminate a detailed report outlining the issues that U.S. children face.

**National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (Washington)** – Awarded \$24,825 to disseminate to health-care professionals guidelines about the environmental management of pediatric asthma.

**National Marfan Foundation (Port Washington, N.Y.)** – Awarded \$25,000 to develop, produce and disseminate 10,000 copies of a handbook designed to help teens cope with the emotional and physical challenges they face in dealing with Marfan syndrome, a chronic and potentially life-threatening disease, and other related disorders.

**Organization for Autism Research (Arlington, Va.)** – Awarded \$23,045 to fund the creation and publication of a resource guide to Asperger syndrome to be used by educators and school administrators in public and private schools nationwide.

**Pennsylvania State University (University Park, Pa.)** – Awarded \$26,250 to fund its "Putting YOUTH Back into Sports" curriculum to county-based Cooperative Extension Educators.

**Substance Abuse Foundation Educating Today's Youth (Phoenix)** – Awarded \$33,940 for "All-American Sam Celebrates America," a program designed to help third- and fourth-graders gain a new appreciation for the U.S. Flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, U.S. veterans and the freedoms Americans enjoy.

**Spina Bifida Association of America (Washington)** – Awarded \$35,000 to fund the creation and distribution of a 4-page, bimonthly newsletter for children afflicted with spina bifida.

**YMCA National Safe Place (Louisville, Ky.)** – Awarded \$43,265 to produce and distribute public service announcements in middle schools and high schools to make youth between ages 10 and 17 aware of "Safe Place" resources.

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Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Required - I hereby state that I am over 21 years of age.

Your Birth Date: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

# Gulf War illness: VA rules out stress

American Legion National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus praised VA's decision to spend up to \$15 million in fiscal year 2005 for research into Gulf War veterans illnesses. VA will also create a Center for the Study of Gulf War Illnesses Treatment. VA Secretary Anthony Principi specified that VA will not use any of the money for research that focuses on stress as the primary cause of unexplained illnesses suffered by thousands of veterans of the 1991 Gulf War.

"It's imperative that the government find out what is making these veterans sick," Cadmus said. "It's also crucial that VA provide our ill Gulf War veterans with timely and effective medical treatment and just compensation for their service-connected disabilities."

Principi's announcement was accompanied by the release of a report of VA's Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses. The study found that Gulf War veterans' illnesses are not



DOD

explained by stress or psychiatric conditions. Earlier government panels concluded that deployment-related stress is likely responsible for the numerous unexplained symptoms reported by thousands of Gulf War veterans. This recent report concluded that current scientific evidence supports a probable link between neurotoxin exposure and subsequent development of Gulf War veterans' illnesses.

"It makes sense that VA takes the committee's recommendations seriously and focuses on areas of research that have been previously

unexplored, such as neurological factors," Cadmus said. "It is important that VA focus its research on finding medical treatments that will alleviate veterans' suffering as well as on figuring out the causes of that suffering. It has been more than 13 years since the end of the Gulf War. It's time for a change in the direction and in the intensity of the research."

## Eye-care benefits for Legion family

The American Legion and Cole Managed Vision offer members of the Legion family affordable family eye-care vision benefits.

Eye diseases such as glaucoma, macular degeneration and cataracts can develop without any warning or with few noticeable symptoms. Eye exams can also detect conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure.

CMV recommends participants schedule eye exams every two years, and yearly for those over the age of 65 or with diagnosed medical conditions.

Legionnaires can save up to 60 percent on eyewear at network locations including Sears Optical, Pearle Vision, Target Optical, J.C. Penney Optical and thousands of private practices.

### For more info

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Refer to American Legion group number 47178.

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U.S. Army

## Welcome Home'

Legion booklet guides new veterans to benefits.

Numerous federal and state programs provide financial support, medical care and rehabilitation, and social and economic readjustment services to veterans. Active-duty service-members, reservists and National Guardsmen serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom have earned certain veterans rights, such as medical and dental care, disability compensation, readjustment counseling services, educational assistance, employment services and reemployment rights. The Legion's National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission offers the booklet "Welcome Home" to inform the nation's newest veterans and their families of their entitlements and benefits, and where to apply.

To obtain one, veterans are encouraged to contact their local American Legion posts or department headquarters



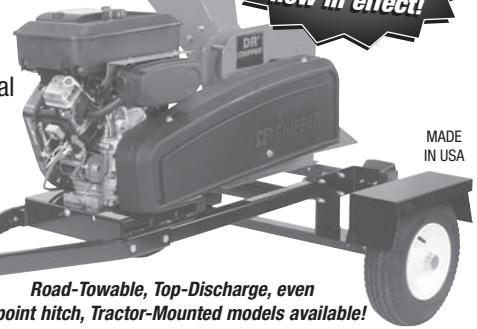
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# Travel discounts available to Legion meetings

Legionnaires can obtain discounted fares on various airlines for travel to official organization meetings during 2005 – saving 5 percent to 10 percent, depending on available fares and how far in advance tickets are purchased. Tickets should be purchased at least 30 days prior to travel to obtain lowest fares. A partial list of eligible meetings is provided at right. Extended lists will be provided in future issues.

Legionnaires whose presence is requested at meetings should make their travel arrangements by contacting Marti Wooden at (317) 630-1232 or via e-mail at [mwooden@legion.org](mailto:mwooden@legion.org). All others making travel arrangements to official meetings should contact the airlines directly by calling the following numbers and using the associated Legion reference codes:

## Upcoming 2005 Meetings

### Jan. 17-21

Presidential Inauguration, Washington (DCA, BWI & IAD)

### Feb. 21-March 2

DSO Workshop & DC Conference, Washington (DCA, BWI & IAD)

### April 8-10

National High School Oratorical Contest, Indianapolis

For a complete listing of eligible Legion meetings, visit the Legion Web site at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

**American Airlines:** (800) 433-1790. Refer to **index code 17730** for scheduled meetings. Use **authorization code 0985AA** for the 87th National Convention in Honolulu.

**Northwest Airlines:** (800) 328-1111. Refer to **WorldFile # NM59E**

for scheduled meetings and **NY884** for national convention.

**US Airways:** (877) 874-7687. Refer to **Gold File # 8518-3257** for scheduled meetings only. US Airways discounts are not available for national convention.

**United Airlines:** (800) 521-4041. Refer to **tour code # 500ZV** for scheduled meetings and national convention.

**Delta Airlines:** (800) 241-6760. Refer to **Delta File # 205834A** for scheduled meetings and national convention. Discounts are *not* available for baseball regional games or Legion World Series.

**American Trans Air (ATA):** (877) 282-4322. Refer to convention code **MC50200**. This contract is good only for national convention.

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## Personnel records aren't destroyed, contrary to e-mail

*This notice from the National Personnel Records Center is intended to clear up an erroneous e-mail that circulated on the Internet earlier this year.*

Neither the Department of Defense nor the National Personnel Records Center intends to destroy original paper copies of official military personnel

records (OMPF) stored at the records center. The purpose of any electronic scanning in the future is to reduce handling of fragile records during the reference process and to reduce the time necessary to locate an OMPF. The NRPC upholds its responsibility to preserve and protect official military personnel files.

## New focus ends leadership conferences

Increasing costs and decreasing attendance led The American Legion National Executive Committee to adopt Resolution 26 last fall, canceling the National Leadership and Information Conferences (NLICs) scheduled for 2005.

National and department headquarters will refocus on "blue-cap" Legionnaire leadership training through programs like state and national Legion Colleges, at conventions and other department conferences. The Internal Affairs division at National Headquarters will assist departments with Legion College and other training programs.

### For more info

The American Legion  
Internal Affairs Division  
P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
(310) 630-1321

E-mail: [ia@legion.org](mailto:ia@legion.org)  
You also may contact the appropriate division at National Headquarters.



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These products are to be used for the purpose of

mailing care packages to service members. Customs forms also are available upon request.

## Samsung scholarship winners announced

Seven high-school seniors – Andrew Draper of Midvale, Utah; Eric Hald of Holdrege, Neb.; Alyson Hubbard of Liberty, Ind.; Alison Clausen of Newport, Wash.; Jeffrey Cherewaty of Houston, Texas; Stephanie Durfee of Almo, Idaho; and Elizabeth Greene of Middletown, Md. – will each receive a \$20,000 college scholarship through the Samsung-American Legion program.

The selection committee awarded the scholarships based on academic records, school and community involvement, and financial need. Eligibility requires students to be direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans.

The Samsung Group, an international electronics company, endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by The American Legion in appreciation of U.S. veterans who fought in the Korean War. The size and number of scholarships is dependent upon the amount of income derived from the fund.

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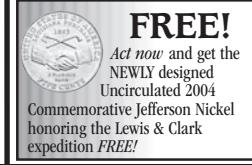
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## How to Submit a Reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org).

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, **The American Legion Magazine** will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

## Other Notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, tele-

phone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org).

The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.** Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

## AIR FORCE/ARMY AIR FORCES

**42nd Bomb Grp (M)**, Scottsdale, AZ, 4/27-5/1, Linda Birch, (410) 239-6616, [lbirch@qis.net](mailto:lbirch@qis.net); **67th TRW**, Dayton, OH, 5/11-15, Paul R. Graves, (614) 491-4432; **611th, 621st AC&W (Sado Shima, Japan)**, Lakeland, FL, 4/29-5/1, L.C. Colwell, (419) 394-8592, [lccolwell@yahoo.com](mailto:lccolwell@yahoo.com); **622nd Air Refueling Sqdn (1955-1963)**, Biloxi, MS, 4/19-22, John Barr, (601) 957-2619; **RAF Chicksands Alumni (All Years, Services)**, Chicksands Priory, UK, 7/28-8/2, Bill Grayson, [wcgrayson@earthlink.net](mailto:wcgrayson@earthlink.net)

## ARMY

**9th, 10th Armd Tank Grp (Camp Bouse, AZ, 1943-1944)**, Bouse, AZ, 2/12, Clyde Praast, (928) 851-2498, [bousechamber@redirvnet.com](mailto:bousechamber@redirvnet.com); **11th Abn Div Mid-Atl Chtp**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 2/19-23, Bob Fisette, (803) 775-3085; **15th Cav & Camp Kaiser, Korea**, Falls Church, VA, 5/18-23, George Patterson, (732) 872-1397, [busava@aol.com](mailto:busava@aol.com); **73rd Tank Bn & 73rd Armor**, Lake Placid, NY, 6/5-8, Curtis Bunker, (518) 643-2302, [dmbuster-curtis@northnet.org](mailto:dmbuster-curtis@northnet.org)

**80th Trans Det Cargo Heli Field Maint (Douglas, AZ, June-Sept 1956)**, Tucson, AZ, 4/7-11, John Patrick, (870) 892-3022, [jpatrick@tcac.net](mailto:jpatrick@tcac.net); **222nd Avn Bn, H&HC & 147th ASH Co**, Columbus, GA, 6/2-5, Don Yaxley, (585) 548-7762, [dwyyaxley@cs.com](mailto:dwyyaxley@cs.com); **519th, 531st Mil Bns (Yokohama, Japan, 1945-1947)**, Dallas, 4/23-24, Cliff Steely, (903) 645-2845, [yably@aol.com](mailto:yably@aol.com)

**663rd Ord Co Motor Pool (Vilseck, Germany, Dec 1971-July 1974)**, 7/9, Glen Schallock, (608) 786-2248, [dkschallock@msn.com](mailto:dkschallock@msn.com); **973rd Const Eng (1950-1953)**, Ardmore, OK, 5/7, Don Gordon, (660) 826-5455, [d2j8g5@ilqn.net](mailto:d2j8g5@ilqn.net); **C Trp 2/17th Cav 101st Abn Div**, San Antonio, 6/9-12, Emil Hirsch, (210) 659-3395, [2roads@satx.rr.com](mailto:2roads@satx.rr.com); **Society of 1st Inf Div**, Washington, 7/20-24, Edward J. Burke, (888) 324-4733, [soc1id@aol.com](mailto:soc1id@aol.com)

## COAST GUARD

**USCGC Campbell Assn W 32/W 909**, Savannah, GA, 5/15-19, Gordon Bell, (215) 393-6195, [captbell@comcast.net](mailto:captbell@comcast.net); **USS Bisbee PF 46**, CA, 5/15-19, Thom Weber, (609) 898-8561

## JOINT

**60th Anniv Iwo Jima Landing**, Sacaton, AZ, 2/19, Leonard Enos, (520) 562-8484, [ihost84@gilanet.net](mailto:ihost84@gilanet.net); **Persian Gulf Cmd Vets Org (WWII)**, Huntsville, AL, 5/11-15, George Pope, (931) 438-8710; **USS Bataan CVL**

**29/LHD 5**, Fort Myers, FL, 5/11-15, Don Shipley, (239) 549-8143, [shipmate50@earthlink.com](mailto:shipmate50@earthlink.com); **USS Palau CVE 122 (All Navy and Mar Air Grps)**, Annapolis, MD, 4/24-27, Harry Weldy, (410) 658-6043, [hweldy@zoominternet.net](mailto:hweldy@zoominternet.net)

## MARINES

**All Marines Active, Hon Discharge, Ret & Navy Corpsmen**, Ignacio, CO, 5/12-14, Pete Woods, (970) 946-1055, [mcldoco@cs.com](mailto:mcldoco@cs.com); **Musicians Assn**, San Diego, 4/19-22, Richard Oldenburg, (611) 821-1683, [jazjoc@sierratel.com](mailto:jazjoc@sierratel.com)

## NAVY

**ASR/ARS Assn**, Pensacola, FL, 4/7-9, Chuck Micele, (850) 913-8067, [ckmicele@juno.com](mailto:ckmicele@juno.com); **CUB-10**, Baltimore, 6/22-24, Raymond Pulaski, (410) 288-0590; **OM/IM**, Branson, MO, 6/23-25, Lloyd Stagg, (850) 944-3302, [ltstagg@msn.com](mailto:ltstagg@msn.com); **Tin Can Sailors Nat'l Assn of Destroyer Vets**, St. Louis, 8/7-11, Terry Miller, (800) 223-5535; **USS Amphion AR 13**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 4/21-24, Lloyd Stagg, (850) 944-3302, [ltstagg@msn.com](mailto:ltstagg@msn.com)

**USS Ashland LSD 1/LSD 48**, Charleston, SC, 5/4-8, Paul S. Adams, (302) 834-1806, [psadams@delanet.com](mailto:psadams@delanet.com); **USS Augusta Assn**, Annapolis, MD, 5/2-6, Robert Forry, (814) 735-4846, [rimlodge@pennswoods.net](mailto:rimlodge@pennswoods.net); **USS Blakely FF 1072**, Charleston, SC, July, John Klaers, (407) 647-2721, [jdkaers@aol.com](mailto:jdkaers@aol.com); **USS Coontz DLG 9/DDG 40**, Norfolk, VA, 7/22-25, (336) 516-2447, [usscoontz1984@yahoo.com](mailto:usscoontz1984@yahoo.com); **USS Effingham APA 165**, Peoria, IL, 4/27-5/1, Lowell E. Lape Ellington, (509) 627-3870, [shadlupe@aol.com](mailto:shadlupe@aol.com)

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The teacher paused, then asked the class, "And what do you think that farmer said?"

A little girl raised her hand and answered, "I think he said, 'Holy cow! A talking chicken!'"

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The dog said, "That's too long



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to be barking. Give me 10 years and I'll give you back the other 10." So God agreed.

On the second day, God created the monkey. God said, "Entertain people. Do monkey tricks and make them laugh. I'll give you a lifespan of 20 years."

The monkey said, "How boring. Monkey tricks for 20 years? I don't think so. Dog gave you back 10, so that's what I'll do, too. OK?" And God agreed.

On the third day, God created the cow. God said, "You must go to the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer. I will give you a life span of 60 years."

The cow said, "That's a tough life you want me to live for 60 years. Let me have 20, and I'll give back the other 40." And God agreed again.

On the fourth day, God created man. God said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. I'll give you 20 years."

Man said, "Only 20 years? Tell you what. I'll take my 20, as well as the 40 the cow gave back, the 10 the



"Let's play doctor - I'll listen to your heart and you give me all your allowance."

monkey gave back and the 10 the dog gave back. That makes 80."

"OK," God said. "You've got a deal."

That's why the first 20 years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next 40 years we slave in the sun to support our family. Then, for the next 10 years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. Our last 10 years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.



"You think your job is bad? You should sit and listen to this all day."

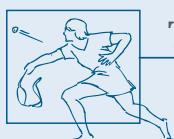


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